

FRIDAY, MARCH 11, 1983

A break in the clouds

AT LONG LAST there is, to adapt a hackneyed phrase, light at the end of the Lebanese tunnel. This week the foreign ministers of Israel and Lebanon, Yitzhak Shamir and Elie Sulem, will both be in Washington, and it is expected that, with assistance from their U.S. opposite number, George Shultz, they will help move the slow Israel-Lebanese talks on to a swift and successful conclusion.

The expectation of an early agreement derives largely from a softening in Israel's position, heralded by Mr. Shamir in testimony before the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee on Tuesday.

Mr. Shamir is now prepared to argue that there is security in normality itself. Therefore, the further normality with Lebanon is pushed, the greater will be Israel's willingness to scale down its original security claims on Lebanon.

Thus for a goodly measure of normality, Israel would forgo the demand for IDF-manned anti-terror observation posts in South Lebanon.

Now Israel is apparently ready to pay obeisance to the principle of Lebanese sovereignty by agreeing to entrust the prevention and deterrence of terrorism in South Lebanon to joint IDF and Lebanese — and possibly American — patrols, to aerial surveillance, and to Major Haddad's militia.

How much normality would make this shift palatable to Israel is unclear. What is beyond doubt is that, contrary to some fervent hopes in Jerusalem last summer, normality would not take the shape of formal peace.

On this point a softening may be expected from the Lebanese side. A plausible forecast would be some diplomatic ties, symbolized by the presence of an Israeli office in Beirut, and a harder open to the controlled movement of persons and goods. In any case, normalization could not realistically go much further with a Lebanon that is as heavily dependent on the Arab hinterland as it is. But it could be deemed sufficient to enable Israel to make do with a less vigorous military presence in South Lebanon than was originally contemplated.

Israeli concessions, Mr. Shamir is reported to have told the Knesset committee, are needed as an inducement to the Syrians to leave Lebanon. Damascus has, it is true, lately waived its own insistence on the departure of its troops only after the IDF, and now agrees to a simultaneous evacuation. But if Israel decided to stay in force across its border, the Syrians would doubtless also stay put.

Now the prospect has opened for withdrawal by all foreign troops, including the PLO's, from Lebanon, and for a reasonable stabilization of Israel's northern border.

Dry Bones



Dry Bones



THURSDAY, MARCH 10, 1983

Arens' new look

THE PROMISE of a more broad-minded Israeli policy on the West Bank resulting from the change of guard at the Defence Ministry, has now been followed with a measure of fulfilment.

On Monday the new defence minister, Moshe Arens, ordered the army to remove Kach members from their El Nakam settlement just outside Hebron. This was Mr. Arens' direct response to charges that the disciples of Meir Kahane were guilty of attacks on Arabs in the area. The next day, in the Knesset, Mr. Arens suggested that in dealing with Arab law-breakers Israelis must not stoop to illegality.

What is now being heralded, then, is a civilized method of maintaining Israel's hold on the territories. Mr. Arens left the Knesset, and the nation, in no doubt that the principle of holding on to Judea, Samaria and Gaza would be adhered to in the future as it had been in the past. There would be no halt to the settling up of settlements throughout the territories.

But was not the spread of settlements itself an invitation to terrorist violence, and a contribution to the lessening of Israel's security? Mr. Arens thought it was not. There had been terrorist action stemming from Judea and Samaria before their occupation in June 1967, he pointed out. Quoting the deposed mayor of Ramallah, the defence minister also argued that settlements at strategic points made terrorism less likely.

It was an intelligent, but somewhat irrelevant, argument. A solution to the Palestinian problem must obviously ensure, at a minimum, that Judea and Samaria should not pose a threat to Israel, as they did before the Six Day War. In the meantime, Israel must remain in occupation. But this does not mean that the conversion of the West Bank into a Jewish-settled area itself bolsters Israel's security.

Unless they are expelled, the Arabs who today live in what they prefer to call the West Bank will stay there. So long as they do, it is not very likely that they will meekly resign themselves to the redesignation of most of the West Bank land as Israel state land, to be settled by Jews, nor to the engulfment and invasion of their larger towns, first Hebron and shortly, it appears, Nablus, by Jews. Not even Arabs who are well disposed towards Israel and seek peace with it will take that lying down.

To be sure, the Arab will resist creeping Israeli annexation may be broken. But it can only be broken by means that go against the grain of Israel's democratic character, and that make a mockery of any pretension to benign Israeli rule over the occupied Arabs. That it would finally bury any prospect for an agreed autonomy goes without saying.

Such an objection might not deter an Ariel Sharon. But it should pose a real dilemma for Moshe Arens.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 9, 1983

A bill worth defeating

THE DEFEAT of the bill that would have extended the terms of office of the two chief rabbis, and put off the chief rabbinate elections by a full year, was a triumph of good sense. The bill, submitted by the government against the counsel of the justice minister, was a disgraceful piece of legislation, tailor-made for Rabbis Shlomo Goren and Ovadia Yosef in their struggle to hold on to their jobs.

Some of the arguments put forward for the bill were, to put it mildly, bizarre. Thus it was claimed, by the chief rabbis themselves, that the observance of the 1980 law which made the incumbents ineligible for re-election was tantamount to deposition, if not dethronement. What it really amounted to was the observance of a law which the two chief rabbis accepted, in good grace, when it was enacted.

It was also said that if the chief rabbinate elections were held now, and without the incumbents participating, the result would be a takeover by extreme anti-Zionist elements. This ignores the fact, that while Shlomo Goren has been an ultra-nationalist chief rabbi, Ovadia Yosef does not consider Zionism one of his important credentials. In any case, if it is true that only the persons of these two venerable scholars stand guard against a grab of the highest religious posts within the Jewish community by the zealots, then something must be radically wrong with the entire institution of the chief rabbinate.

Some people might even draw the conclusion that the time is ripe for a separation of state and synagogue in this country. At the very least this would lend support to the contention that the chief rabbinate is due for an overhaul. What shape it should take has already been suggested: one chief rabbi, officiating as chairman of the Chief Rabbinate Council, and one president of the Supreme Rabbinical Council, both elected on a national and non-communal basis. The only thing that could be said in favour of putting off the rubbinical elections due March 15 is that it might have made it somewhat easier to effect this fundamental change.

But elections now, in accordance with the provisions of the 1980 law, need not prevent a reform in the future.

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Ministers divided on new Lebanon 'package deal'

By DAVID LANDAU
Post Diplomatic Correspondent

Israel might be prepared to be more flexible on the issue of "mutual relations" with Lebanon, agreeing that not every aspect of those relations need be immediately spelled out in a formal accord.

"Possibly the external format could be softer than the reality on the ground," a senior policymaker said over the weekend. He meant that the eventual agreement with Lebanon might be less specific on matters of trade and tourism than Israel would have wished — but in practice there will be a substantial flow of goods and persons across the border.

A possible Israeli flexibility on

"mutual relations" complements Israel's readiness to consider new American proposals on security arrangements. These proposals in effect rebuff Israel's demand to retain IDF-manned military posts inside South Lebanon, but they seek to satisfy Israel's security requirements by providing for close cooperation between the IDF and the Lebanese army.

The cabinet on Sunday heard a report from Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir on his lengthy talks last week in Washington, where the new American proposals were first made and where Shamir indicated the possible new flexibility in the Israeli positions.

American special envoys Philip Habib and Morris Draper arrive in Israel this week.

While there is a growing anxiety on the part of some ministers to accelerate the agreement-and-withdrawal process with Lebanon, some important sections of the cabinet are understood to be dissatisfied with the American proposals. These ministers differ from the Foreign Ministry assertions that Shamir's trip to Washington, and the package deal he discussed there (subject to cabinet approval), was a success for Israel.

The feeling among these sections of the cabinet is that there is "nothing new" in the American proposals on any of the issues which Israel has regarded during the months of negotiation as vital, an IDF presence in Lebanon for some time into the future, formalized nor-

malization, and a built-in role for Maj. Sa'ad Haddad and his militia force.

At Sunday's cabinet meeting some ministers complained that the proposals brought back by Shamir were not clear.

The ministers who see the American proposals as a step forward are impressed by the cogency of Lebanon's contention that it must take account of massive Arab world pressures. Lebanon has been brutally warned by Saudi Arabia and other Arab states not to enter into a far-reaching normalization accord with Israel.

Lebanon — and the U.S. — have also sought to impress upon Israel that if there were to be a residual role for the IDF in South Lebanon,

Syrin would demand at least as much for its forces in East and North Lebanon.

The question of how the Syrians and their Soviet patrons will act in the weeks ahead is troubling all sections of the Israeli cabinet. Even ministers anxious to complete an Israel-Lebanon-U.S. accord are wary of Syrian obstruction on the road to its implementation, and the feeling is that the road is still a long one.

Top analysts here say that, even if the Soviets do not actively prod Damascus into refusing to withdraw, the Syrians themselves will certainly demand a high political price from the Lebanese in return for their cooperation in an American-orchestrated withdrawal.

(Continued on page 2.)

Surprise here over charges by Marines

Israeli officials have expressed amazement at what they believe is an "anti-Israeli stand" adopted by the U.S. Marines stationed in Beirut as part of the Multi-National Force of peace-keepers.

The latest in a series of incidents was a letter by the marine commandant, General Robert Barrow, charging that Israeli troops were threatening the lives of the American soldiers. The letter, first leaked by the Pentagon and then fully publicized, charged Israel with deliberately trying to provoke the marines for "obscene political reasons."

An IDF spokesman said that the various incidents listed in the letter were all the fault of the marines and had, in any case, been settled amicably.

One report said that the general's letter had in fact been written six weeks ago.

The marines, under the direct supervision of Defence Secretary Caspar Weinberger, who is regarded as being hostile to Israel, are under strict orders to avoid all friendly contact with the Israeli forces in Lebanon. Because there is no liaison between the two forces, incidents have occurred and will continue to occur, Israeli officials say.

The Americans avoid contact with the IDF in the belief that any association will fuel Arab charges that the U.S. approves of Israel's Lebanon policy.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens on Friday phoned Weinberger and urged him to adopt a series of recommendations designed to ensure cooperation between the IDF and the marines. Arens told Weinberger that unless something was done soon, a tragedy could occur.

Arens visited Israeli forces deployed around Beirut earlier Friday and came away deeply per-

turbed by the total lack of communication between the forces and what could happen as a result. He suggested the following immediate steps:

- An agreement in writing specifying the demarcation lines between the forces and procedures for crossing these lines.
- Liaison arrangements between the forces, which would include an exchange of liaison officers at marine and IDF headquarters in Beirut as well as the opening of direct lines of communication. A Defence Ministry spokesman told the Associated Press in Tel Aviv that the system works well with the French, Italian and British troops.

These agreements should be reached and implemented by the local commanders in the area, Arens suggested. Failing this, they should be agreed upon by higher echelons without delay.

Privately, some U.S. officials have accused Israel of deliberately provoking the marines in order to discredit American and other foreign peace-keepers in Lebanon. This, they have suggested, would further strengthen Israel's case to maintain a residual military presence in South Lebanon.

Some Israeli officials here, on the other hand, have accused Weinberger and the Pentagon of promoting the tensions in order to further strain relations with Israel and to undermine its popularity among the American public. This, the Israeli officials have said, would put added pressure on Israel to leave Lebanon.

The Barrow letter has caused a major stir in the U.S., and officials confirmed that it was given to Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir during his talks with Secretary of State George Shultz last week.

The New York Times said Barrow had been a consistent critic of Israeli policy.

(Continued on page 2.)



Thousands of people demonstrated at Jerusalem's Western Wall last week at a rally organized as part of the World Conference for Soviet Jewry. Reports page 8. (Zoom 77)

Two Israeli officers killed near Beirut

Jerusalem Post Staff and Agencies

Two Israeli officers were killed last week when their vehicle struck a freshly-planted mine near Kahle, five kilometres east of Beirut. Ten other IDF soldiers were injured in three ambushes in the areas of Sidon, Tyre and Bahamoun, near Beirut.

Rav-Seren (major) Shimon Mendil, 26, of Rishon LeZion, and Seren (captain) Meir Shlomo Weizman, 35, of Or Yehuda, were the first Israeli fatalities since two men were killed a month ago. Weizman is survived by his wife and nine-year-old daughter, Mendil by his wife and a two-year-old daughter.

The terrorists also attacked American and Italian soldiers of the Multi-National Force in what Italian envoy Franco Ottieri termed

"an organized plot" to drive the international force out of Lebanon. Lebanon Army Commander Maj. Gen. Ibrahim Tannous charged that unnamed "non-Lebanese parties" had "masterminded and staged" the assaults.

In separate attacks, five U.S. Marines and eight Italian soldiers were wounded on the outskirts of Beirut. The marines all suffered light wounds. But two of the Italians were "paralyzed for life," the Italian ambassador said. On Friday, a lone assailant hurled two hand grenades at French peace-keepers.

No one was injured. The peace force, which has been helping President Amin Jemayel's government re-establish control of the capital, is made up of 1,200 U.S. troops, 2,000 French, 2,100 Italians and 100 Britons. The Italian and French contingents have been increased in recent weeks.

In south Lebanon, a woman demonstrator from the Elin Hilwe Palestinian refugee camp was shot in the leg when Israeli troops broke up a violent demonstration by 500 women outside the Sidon military headquarters last week.

NEWSTAND PRICES IN LOCAL CURRENCY

Australia	\$1.20	Italy	L.1,500
Canada	\$1.48	South Africa	Rd1.20
Denmark	DKR.00	Sweden	SKR.60
Germany	DM2.80	Switzerland	SP2.00
Holland	DF3.00	United Kingdom	£3.00
Israel	1830.00	United States	\$1.25

Weighing the Soviet threat

Defence Minister Moshe Arens said last week that the deployment of Soviet SAM-5 anti-aircraft missiles in Syria was "certainly not a stabilizing step."

Replying in the Knesset to a motion for the agenda by Mordechai Gur (Alignment), Arens said that the SAM-5s, and the Soviet technicians who accompanied them, were liable to give the Syrians the feeling that they would be operating under the umbrella of the Soviet anti-aircraft systems.

The Syrians may be unaware of the "holes" in that umbrella, Arens said, and they may also think that they will be able to drag the Russians into any flare-up that may occur.

Arens said that, if necessary, Israel would know how to cope with these systems, too, and that if there were any aggressive action by Syria, "the scope of the military activity would be dictated by us."

The U.S., no less than Israel, regards the deployment of the Russian anti-aircraft missiles in Syria as a danger, Arens said.

Arens said that Israel was not interested in war with Syria. On the contrary, it wanted to make peace with that country. Israel was prepared to meet with Syria's leaders to conduct peace negotiations "at any time and at any place."

The Soviet ambassador to Lebanon said later in the week that the Soviet Union will intervene if a war breaks out between Israel and Syria.

Ambassador Alexander Solodovnikov said further that the Soviet Union recently supplied Syria with advanced anti-aircraft missiles in order to enhance Syria's defence capability. He was speaking after meeting Lebanese president Amin Gemayel.

In Israel, there were differing assessments of the Russian threat.

Opposition leader Shimon Peres warned that the increased Soviet involvement in Syria has ominous implications for the Middle East. But in a separate forum, Communications Minister Mordechai Zupor said the Soviets aren't interested in escalating tensions in the region.

Peres said the growing Soviet role in Syria also marks an acceleration in the arms race.

Peres said that four factors were behind the Kremlin's decision to resume their intensive involvement in the Middle East. First, because if American Marines are in Beirut Russian soldiers should be in Damascus. Secondly, there is a bid to foil any American political gains resulting from the war in Lebanon. Thirdly, Moscow wishes to prevent King Hussein of Jordan from taking

part in the peace negotiations, and fourthly, there is a desire to restore Russian prestige after the bad showing of the Soviet-armed Syrians during the war.

Zupor said that the Soviet Union's warning that it will intervene if armed conflict breaks out between Israel and Syria is not a threat but is really a message to both sides not to start fighting. "If they wanted to heat things up, they would keep quiet and let it happen," he said.

He added that the Soviets have been hurt internationally by Syria's defeat in Lebanon and that the new missiles and influx of technicians is designed to see that such a thing does not happen again.

"They can replenish the Syrian arsenal, but the Syrian air force and anti-aircraft people know what really happened and know it will be a long time before they can rehabilitate themselves, if ever they can," he said.

Outgoing Chief of Staff Rav-Aluf (lieut. gen.) Rafael Eitan said last week that if the Syrian missiles are fired against Israeli aircraft over Lebanon, Israeli territory or the Mediterranean, then Israel will have to knock out the SAM-5s.

"It makes no difference to us who operates the missiles, Syrians or Russians," he added. (Compiled from reports by Aryeh Rubinstein and Agencies.)

The Friday Dry Bones



LEBANON 'DEAL'

(Continued from page 1.)

of all-foreign-forces pact. Syria will seek to maintain as much political influence as it can over Lebanon after its troops have pulled out.

From Israel's standpoint, the analysts here say, strong Syrian influence in Beirut is unwelcome, because it would mean a weakening of the central government there — and an enhanced prospect of the PLO returning to the country.

President Ronald Reagan, Secretary of State George Shultz and other senior administration officials fully expect Israeli cabinet endorsement of the latest set of U.S. proposals which are reportedly called a "framework of authoritative measures." They include a stepped-up U.S. military presence in South Lebanon to assist an elite Lebanese Army unit in securing the border area.

A senior U.S. official told reporters at the White House that, as a result of five days of intensive diplomacy, a new, more positive atmosphere can be expected when the Israeli-Lebanese negotiations resume. He was speaking after Reagan's 30-minute meeting with Lebanese Foreign Minister Elie Salem and former prime minister Saeb Salam.

Salam emerged from the meeting with Reagan quoting the president as having reaffirmed his strong determination to achieve the withdrawal of all foreign forces from Lebanon.

Earlier in the week Lebanese President Amin Gemayel indicated that the talks in Washington might lead to a breakthrough.

Shamir said on Israel Television that the U.S. ideas are "not yet satisfactory" and Israel is "waiting for more... We hope that Washington will draw closer still to our viewpoint."

Shamir apparently was confident, on the basis of prior communication, that Begin would go along with the American package.

Although there have been few signs so far that either Syria or Israel is ready to withdraw fully from Lebanon, a more limited pull-back in the central Shouf mountains, possibly linked to an exchange of prisoners between the two countries, could be in the offing.

In Jerusalem, U.S. Ambassador Samuel Lewis told a closed meeting of American delegates to the world conference on Soviet Jewry that he

is sceptical about Syria's willingness to withdraw its forces in Lebanon. He added that certain U.S. officials involved in the Lebanon issue share this view. But U.S. Ambassador to the UN Jeane Kirkpatrick, in Jerusalem for the conference did not agree with Lewis' assessment.

Kirkpatrick said she tends to believe repeated Syrian commitments to pull out of Lebanon.

A Reuters correspondent in Damascus reported that Syria will probably accept an agreement on the withdrawal of Israeli forces from Lebanon which allows a limited Israeli role in security arrangements in South Lebanon and a token amount of Israeli-Lebanese trade.

"Both western and non-aligned diplomats think Syria's priorities are to remove the threat posed to its own security by the Israeli troops in Lebanon, and to prevent Lebanon establishing normal relations with Israel as Egypt did," the correspondent said.

"They were certain that Syria would reject any idea of Israeli troops remaining in Lebanon after a withdrawal."

Defence Minister Moshe Arens, in a visit to Israeli forces in the eastern sector of Lebanon facing Syria, told them last week that it was his intention to have the IDF return to Israel as soon as possible.

"Our goal is to get out of here," Arens said, but patience is required. Israel, he continued, will not pull back before adequate security arrangements are made that will ensure no more Katyushas falling in Galilee.

(Compiled from reports by David Landau, David Bernstein, Hirsch Goodman, and in Washington, Wolf Blitzer.)

Budget cuts

The cabinet on Sunday rejected a proposal by the coalition executive to cut IS3 billion from the government's budget to pay for increased allowances for large families and additional funds for religious educational institutions, and suggested a reduction of IS1 billion only.

The ministers decided instead to ask Finance Minister Yoram Aridor to submit a proposal to raise the other IS2 billion elsewhere. (See page 11.)

NEWS ANALYSIS



More 'days of protest' ahead on West Bank

By DAVID RICHARDSON
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Senior military sources anticipate that the current level of violence on the West Bank will continue until the end of April, focussing on traditional days of protest which last year saw more than 15 persons killed in clashes with security forces. But the sources warn that unlike last year's unrest, the recent pattern of vigilante action by Jewish settlers could provoke more serious outbreaks of violence and even terrorist actions.

The almost daily reports of stone-throwing attacks on Israeli military and civilian traffic have been a feature of the West Bank for almost six months. Collective punishments, such as curfews and local "closures" and the welding of stores are ineffective in many cases, military sources acknowledge, stressing at the same time that in any case they are reluctant to employ these indiscriminately. But given the constraints most of the commanders willingly operate under, they have little other recourse.

Although there was a general decrease in violence last week, there were disturbances in refugee camps near Hebron and Ramallah, in Nablus, Kalkiya and Duhariya.

At week's end the driver of a military car was slightly injured by stone-throwing students outside Ramallah, and a woman soldier was injured by a rock in East Jerusalem. Earlier in the week, three IDF soldiers and two Israeli civilians were injured by rocks, and an Arab schoolboy was slightly wounded when settlers opened fire near El Bireh.

The recent upsurge in the level of violence has a number of causes, ac-

cord to both military and local Palestinian sources, although the order of importance is dimetrically opposed. For the army officers and security personnel involved, the recent PNC congress in Algiers revived nationalist passions in the area, particularly among the youth.

PLO chairman Yasser Arafat, in one of his final speeches at the council, paid tribute to the "RPG kids" who fought against the IDF in Lebanon last summer and to the "rock kids" who are at the forefront of the "Palestinian resistance" in the territories, one source recalled.

These military sources also intimate that pro-PLO agitators in the area receive and allocate money for stirring up students to raise the Palestinian flag, erect roadblocks, burn tires and hurl stones.

These sources noted that the coming weeks include traditional days of protest, such as Land Day (March 30), the anniversary of the Deir Yassin massacre (April 9), Palestinian prisoner day (April 17), Israel Independence Day (April 18) and the anniversaries of the foundation of several Palestinian organizations associated with the PLO.

The appointment of a new defence minister and the recent visit of former U.S. president Jimmy Carter, who in the eyes of the Palestinians bears most of the "blame" for the Camp David accords, also generated tension. Many Palestinians charge, however, that the most irritating factors in the current unrest are the partially unsolved attacks on local Arabs, which are widely seen as the work of Jewish settlers in the area.

"Every time I go back to Ramallah at night I am really scared that I am going to meet a group of settlers," an East Jerusalem Arab told *The Post* last week. Reports that settlers enter schools, shoot indiscriminately, and beat children suspected of stone-throwing, and their mothers if they try to protect them, are widely circulated and entirely believed, even if not substantiated. "For us there is a strong tinge of fear associated with the word 'mountain' (settlers)," a Ramallah resident said.

Some West Bankers candidly concede that they find the attitude of the soldiers charged with security in the area not as tough as it was or as they anticipated. "In similar unrest during (former defence minister Ariel) Sharon's time, we would have had many more martyrs," an East Jerusalem newspaperman said.

Police have arrested a number of people associated with Rabbi Meir Kahane's Kach movement for alleged involvement in shooting incidents in Hebron, where most of the clashes have been reported. But the town's Arab residents say the potential for violence and the unpleasantness in attitude is just as real among other settlers, who by-and-large follow Rabbi Moshe Levinger, who spearheaded the re-establishment of a Jewish presence in the town.

The OC Central Command, Abul Uri Orr, said in a recent TV interview that the army was trying to develop techniques to combat the rash of stone-throwing but within the norms the IDF had set itself.

Defence Minister Moshe Arens last week also said that harsher measures would not be introduced because that would be a departure from IDF norms.

Senior officers in the area stress that military patrols have strict instructions to avoid, as far as possible, resorting to firearms. The number of shooting incidents involving soldiers has sharply decreased. During the unrest following Carter's high-speed tour through Ramallah, the army for the first time employed water cannon with an indelible dye in a disturbance of this scale.

Because of the difficulty of catching stone-throwing youths, who disappear into the narrow alleys of a refugee camp or among their friends in a school courtyard, and of proving their guilt in court, it is hoped that improved techniques of identification and intelligence and heavy fines will eventually make the price of stone-throwing as a form of protest too high.

But even then, nearly every military commander in the area is quick to repeat the key phrase for all those who serve in the territories: "The solution is political, not military, if there is a solution at all."

Modern exodus



Passover in Israel is being marked this year by a new kind of exodus — that of Israelis going abroad for the holiday.

An unprecedented number of residents are taking advantage of special discounts offered by El Al to build up its clientele, reduced by last year's closure. The airline is adding 46 flights to its regular schedule, to handle the extra business.

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THE CLASH WITH THE MARINES

(Continued from page 1.)

leged Israel provocations against the marines for months.

According to U.S. officials, Barrow's letter was largely sparked by incidents involving U.S. soldiers attached to a UN peace-keeping force in Lebanon — rather than the marines actually participating in the Multi-National Force (MNF).

"In addition to the U.S. MNF incidents," Barrow wrote, "I have received information concerning serious harassing incidents by the IDF of the U.S. officers attached to the United Nations Truce Supervisory Organization (UNTSO). These particular incidents involved USMC (United States Marine Corps) and USA officers in life-threatening situations, replete with verbal degradation of the officers, their uniforms and country. Unfortunately, and of greater concern to

me, incidents of this nature are the rule, rather than the exception."

There are 36 Americans and 36 Russians among the 200 UNTSO officers in Lebanon. UNTSO was established in 1949 and includes representatives from 17 nations.

In his two-page letter, Barrow did not provide details of the incidents. But the Knight-Ridder newspaper chain, which first published his letter, also obtained a copy of a classified cable from the U.S. Embassy defence attaché in Beirut describing some of the alleged Israeli challenges to the marines.

Israel, it said, held Marine Maj. John Todd at gunpoint for 25 minutes on January 25 when he was travelling in a convoy along the coastal road to Beirut. "All other vehicles in the convoy were allowed to pass," the cable said.

"More seriously," it continued, "Capt. Bruce Denault (USMC) was

travelling east on the Beirut-Damascus highway conducting a routine patrol. As he rounded a blind curve, an IDF tank situated to his right opened fire with its 50 cal. machinegun directly in front of Capt. Denault's vehicle. Capt. Denault stopped his UN vehicle and returned to the tank position, where he was told that he could proceed. The IDF stated that no UN vehicle would use that road that day. After waiting approximately 30 minutes, Capt. Denault returned to Beirut."

In Jerusalem IDF sources specifically denied Barrow's accusations that Israeli soldiers had ever fired at or otherwise threatened the life of any marine, nor had Israeli soldiers insulted the marines or their uniform.

Meanwhile the pro-Israel lobby on Capitol Hill has unleashed a personal attack on Defence Secretary Weinberger, accusing him of waging an "anti-Israel vendetta."

The American Israel Public Affairs Committee (AIPAC), the officially registered pro-Israel lobbying organization with Congress, charged that Weinberger was an "amateur" and "ignorant" of real U.S. strategic interests in the Middle East.

"It's time to call a spade a spade," said Steven Rosen, AIPAC's director of research.

Rosen, a former defence analyst at the Rand "think tank" in California, said Weinberger has been the most consistently anti-Israel member of this administration and referred to what he charged was a virtual U.S. arms embargo against Israel in recent months.

(Compiled from reports by Wolf Blitzer in Washington and Defence Correspondent Hirsch Goodman)

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Moshe Levi to be chief of staff

By HIRSH GOODMAN
Post Defence Correspondent

Aluf Moshe Levi was unanimously approved by the cabinet last week to replace Rafael Eitan on April 16 as chief of staff.

Levi, currently the deputy chief of staff, was selected by Defence Minister Moshe Arens after two weeks of intensive consultation. Later, Arens said that he hoped neither Aluf Dan Shomron nor Aluf Avigdor Ben-Gal, the two other candidates, would leave the IDF, and that he hoped one of them "would be chief of staff in the future."

After the cabinet meeting, Arens told reporters that it had been a difficult decision because the IDF has a number of officers with the talents and qualifications for the job. He said that Levi had been chosen as the "most suited at this time."

Paying tribute to the outgoing chief of staff, Eitan told the cabinet that Eitan was one of Israel's finest soldiers.

Levi was born in Tel Aviv in 1936. His parents had arrived in Israel from Iraq three years before. His 29 years in the IDF have been typified by a relatively routine passage through the ranks. Apart from a period in the late 1960s when he conducted the fight against the terrorists in the Jordan Valley as a brigade commander, he has not commanded any major formation in battle. But he is thought to be a highly competent administrator and respected by his men for fairness and solid leadership.

The defence establishment is now waiting for a second round of appointments, all of which will be made in consultation with Levi.

Slated for deputy chief of staff is OC Northern Command Amir Drori, a man Levi apparently respects greatly. Shomron has been mentioned as OC Military Intelligence, replacing Yehoshua Saguy, while Ben-Gal may be offered the

post of military attaché in Washington.

Several sources last week were sceptical as to whether Ben-Gal would agree, but Arens is known to have indicated to Ben-Gal that this could be a stepping stone for him.

What is clear is that Arens would like both Shomron and Ben-Gal to remain in uniform. The minister has also promised Saguy, dismissed recently in accordance with the Kahan Commission's recommendations, a senior position in the IDF hierarchy if he spends the next year on study leave.

Levi, known throughout the army as "Moshe-and-a-half" because of his height, served as OC Northern Command, taking over from Yona Efrat in 1977. He became deputy chief of staff nine months ago after Aluf Yekutiel Adam was killed in a terrorist ambush in Lebanon.

He started his career in the IDF with the Golan infantry brigade in 1954, but moved to the paratroops when the unit was set up. He jumped at the Mitla Pass in the 1956 Sinai Campaign, and in the Six Day War was the deputy commander of a brigade that fought in the Sinai and on the Golan. He has a degree in Islamic Studies, and has in the past commanded an armoured division.

Levi is married with five children and lives at Kibbutz Beit Alpha, in the Jezreel Valley.

The appointment of Levi seems consistent with Arens's desire to inject proven technocrats into the defence establishment. In choosing Levi, a man who has never adopted strong enough positions to create implacable foes among his colleagues, Arens also wanted to bring quiet to the upper echelons of the army which have been divided, particularly since the Lebanese war.

In another move, Arens has ordered drastic cuts in the defence ministry's National Security Unit. But he has not asked for the resignation of Aluf Avraham

Tamir, its commander.

It was clear to most observers that the unit would be severely trimmed when Arens replaced Ariel Sharon as defence minister. Under Sharon the unit had taken on the proportions of an alternative general staff, with more than 30 officers serving in it. Under Sharon's predecessor, Ezer Weizmann, there were only two.

Instead of coordinating the various arms of the defence establishment, as was originally intended, it became a mechanism for circumventing them, providing the minister with independent assessments and alternative suggestions for policy, including the conduct of the war in Lebanon, and settlement policy in the administered territories.

According to defence sources the unit will continue to operate, coordinating between the Israel Defence Forces, the minister and the ministry's director-general. It will order special studies on strategic issues from the academic world, as well as from within the army, and will work closely with the IDF's planning unit.

No figures were given, but it is understood that only a few officers will remain.

The National Security Unit under Sharon carried out tasks at the minister's request on a wide range of issues, most of its studies being marked for the minister's eyes only. It dealt with Israel's relations with Zaire and other African countries; military and diplomatic relations with the U.S., and issues usually handled by the Foreign Ministry, the Agriculture Ministry, the general staff, the military industries, and the Prime Minister's Office.

Arens has made it known that he expects the foreign minister to handle all negotiations, including those with Lebanon and Egypt, while his job is to provide those negotiating with the necessary backing to attain their government's goals.



Mordechai Eliahu



Avraham Shapiro (Israeli)

The new chief rabbis

By CHARLES HOFFMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

Rabbi Avraham Shapiro and Rabbi Mordechai Eliahu, both natives and residents of Jerusalem, were elected last week by overwhelming majorities to the posts, respectively, of Ashkenazi and Sephardi chief rabbis. Rabbi Shapiro, 65, is head of the Mercaz Harav yeshiva, and Eliahu, 52, is a member of the High Rabbinical Court.

Both were backed by the National Religious Party, which apparently persuaded most or all of the 30 Labour Party members of the special electoral college to support its candidates.

In the voting for the Ashkenazi chief rabbi, Shapiro received 80 votes; Rabbi Yitzhak Kolitz, a member of the High Rabbinical Court, 39 votes; and Haifa Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Shai'ar Yeshuv Cohen got 17 votes. One of the 139 votes cast was blank and two were invalid.

In the voting for the post of Sephardi chief rabbi, also called the *Rishon Lezion* (first in Zion), Eliahu received 87 votes and Rabbi Eliahu Bakshi-Doron, chief rabbi of Haifa, 49 votes. One of the 139 ballots cast was blank and two were invalid.

Last week's voting at the seat of the Chief Rabbinate in Jerusalem, Hechal Shlomo, ended the 10-year terms of Ashkenazi Chief Rabbi Shlomo Goren and Sephardi Chief Rabbi Ovadia Yosef.

An intensive bid by the NRP to extend the terms of office of Goren and Yosef ended earlier in the month in failure when the Knesset voted down an NRP proposal to defer elections to the Chief Rabbinate until March 1984.

Their original five-year term was extended three times. In 1980 a law was passed stating that the chief rabbis would be elected for 10-year

terms, and could not serve two successive terms. It also stipulated that Goren and Yosef would not be eligible for re-election.

Yosef favoured Bakshi-Doron as his successor, and Goren supported Shapiro. Neither reportedly expressed a preference for a candidate for their counterpart's position.

The balloting was held in the fifth-floor assembly hall of Hechal Shlomo, beneath the famous "kipa" or dome. Each member of the electoral college, composed of 80 rabbis and 70 public representatives (MKs, cabinet ministers and heads of local authorities) cast ballots for both Ashkenazi and Sephardi chief rabbis. The ballots were counted on the dais in the assembly hall and the results announced an hour after the polls were closed.

Rabbi Yosef was named an elector by virtue of his status as one of the 10 senior *dayanim*, or religious court judges, in Israel, but Goren was not allowed to cast a vote.

Rabbi Shapiro is a sixth-generation Jerusalemite who has taught for the last 30 years at the Mercaz Harav yeshiva, named in honour of the first Ashkenazi chief rabbi during the Mandate period, Rabbi Avraham Yitzhak Kook.

Shapiro took over as head of the yeshiva last year on the death of Kook's son, Rabbi Zvi Yehuda Kook.

For the last 10 years Shapiro has served on the High Rabbinical Court, and was among the rabbis and politicians who favoured extending the terms of the previous chief rabbis.

Rabbi Eliahu, born in the Old City of Jerusalem, studied at the Porat Yosef yeshiva, and was named a *dayan* at age 30. He served as *dayan* in Beersheba and Jerusalem before his appointment 12 years ago to the High Rabbinical Court.

Promise from Egypt on trade ties

By AVI TEMKIN
Post Economic Reporter

Industry and Trade Ministry director-general Avraham Asheri says that he has received a promise from the Egyptians that they will resume issuing licences to merchants to import goods from Israel.

Asheri headed the Israeli delegation to last week's trade and economic talks with Egypt in Cairo. Returning home, he said that the Egyptian delegation had given a series of "positive clarifications" on the execution of the existing trade agreement between the two countries.

The Israeli delegation's aim during the talks was to renew the development of the economic relations between the two countries, which have been frozen by the

Egyptians since the start of the Lebanon war last June.

During the talks the Egyptian delegation showed interest in exports to Israel, including a potential customs exemption for several of its products.

The Egyptian team said during the talks that their country's public sector is free to deal with Israeli companies, as stipulated in the trade agreement.

The Israeli sources estimate exports to Egypt in 1980, the first year of normalization, at about \$20m, and in 1981 at between \$25 and \$30m. Exports would have been higher in 1982 if Egypt had not withheld licences.

Egyptian exports to Israel, excluding about \$600m. of oil a year, averaged \$1m. annually over the last three years.

THE ECONOMY

Living costs soar to 130% inflation rate

By AVI TEMKIN
Post Economic Reporter

The 6.1 per cent in February's consumer price index indicates that the Treasury programmes have not managed to slow inflation, according to economic observers in Jerusalem.

Figures released last week by the Central Bureau of Statistics show that the CPI reached 781.3 points at the end of February, on a 1980=100 baseline, bringing the monthly expenditure of an average urban family to IS28,750.

The observers pointed out that the average inflation for the first two months of the year was 7.2 per cent, which in annual terms translates into a 130 per cent rate of inflation, similar to 1982, and which the Treasury still claims will not recur this year.

The increase in the index was the second largest ever recorded for February since the bureau started collecting price statistics in 1951. Only in February 1974 was the monthly inflation for that month higher, 8.1 per cent, mainly as a result of the taxes imposed and the subsidies cut then to finance the Yom Kippur War.

Reacting to the figures, Treasury officials said that the ministry is not responsible for the weather which caused an unusual increase in the prices of fruit and vegetables (17 per cent), and which contributed more than a quarter of the average increase in the index last month.

Excluding fruit and vegetables the index rose by 5.1 per cent for February, and this pace of inflation is seen by the Treasury as much more representative than the general average which was affected by the fruit and vegetables items.

The opposition on the other hand was far from accepting the Treasury's explanations. MK Adi Amoral, the head of the Alignment faction in the Knesset Finance Committee, said that the rise in the index was very high, despite the fact that the end-of-season sales helped bring down the prices of clothes.

The chairman of the Knesset Economic Committee, Gad Ya'acobi, Alignment, said that the inflation figures for February prove that it is impossible to halt inflation without dealing with its roots, while the continuation of the Treasury's policies harms the country's foreign exchange situation.

Last month's increase was mitigated by the early start of end-of-season sales which brought a 3.5 per cent decrease in the prices of clothes and footwear.

The Treasury is still hoping to bring down the annual rate of inflation for 1983 below the 100 per cent mark. To do so the pace of price increases during the coming months must not exceed an average 6 per cent per month.

To achieve this target inflation the ministry has implemented since last October a policy of slow devaluation of the shekel, limiting it to 5 per cent per month, and has increased the price of controlled commodities, such as basic foodstuffs and transport, fuel and communications services, by a similar rate.

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MK says Arabs should have been expelled in 1967

By ASHER WALLFISH
Post Knesset Correspondent

Likud-Herut Knesset Member Meir Cohen said last week that Israel made a fatal mistake when it did not drive 200,000-300,000 Arabs of Judea and Samaria across the Jordan in the 1967 Six Day War as Arabs had been driven from Lod, Ramle and Galilee in 1948.

Cohen, who is deputy speaker of the Knesset, and who was mentioned as a presidential candidate earlier this month, said this in the Knesset Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, after a report on the disturbances in Judea and Samaria.

Cohen said: "The situation today in the areas prove that stones are more effective than bullets. Our soldiers know how to deal with bullets but they stand helpless when stones are thrown at them. We had the means in 1967 to make sure that two or three hundred thousand would move to the other side, as was done in Lod, Ramle and Galilee in 1948, but we made a calamitous mistake. Things would have been simpler today: no Palestinian problem, no stones, no demonstrations. We could have brought in 100,

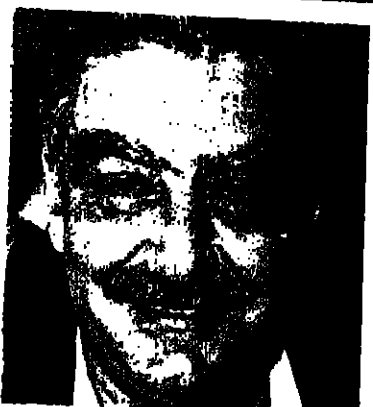
000 settlers and there would have been no trouble."

Mapam's Victor Shemtov interrupted: "Do you mean we should have driven the West Bankers out?" Cohen: "I learned exactly how it should be done, from the Hashomer Hatzair commanders of my unit in the Israel Defence Forces in the 1948 war." (Hashomer Hatzair is the youth movement of Mapam.)

Cohen went on to say that Israel's best answer to the unrest in Judea and Samaria is to build Jewish towns next to every Arab town, in the same way that Upper Nazareth and Migdal Ha'emek were built in Galilee. Israel had to press forward with large-scale settlement and it had to punish the parents of juveniles caught throwing stones.

He spoke after a brief report to the committee by Aluf Ori Orr, O/C Central Command, on the recent unrest. Orr said that it is "clear that only 30 per cent of the demonstrations (in the administered areas) are spontaneous. The rest are organized on orders received from outside the country."

Orr said: "We have to abide by the law in combatting incitement



Meir Cohen

and unrest. We know about money entering the West Bank but we cannot always be sure who gets it and for what purpose." He added: "We mete out the same treatment to Jews who disturb the peace as we do to Arabs."

Rehavia Vardi, a civilian serving as the Defence Ministry's coordinator of operations in the areas, said that he is trying to cement ties with as many "constructive elements" as possible, in order to further efforts to get the autonomy idea off the ground.

A Peace Now spokesman said that the movement was "amazed" that a representative of a Jewish state could make such a statement, especially since the Jews themselves have a long history of being expelled from countries.

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U.S. stands behind 'just cause'

In a message to the Jerusalem World Conference on Soviet Jewry, President Ronald Reagan said that the U.S. will firmly support the "just cause" of Soviet Jews, who should "know that we will not forget them."

Reagan's message, read out to 3,000 in Binyanei Ha'uma by U.S. Ambassador to the UN Jeane Kirkpatrick, also stated that "durable progress in East-West relations cannot be achieved without concurrent progress in human rights."

The U.S., Reagan said, will continue to investigate cases of visa denials, harassment and family reunification, and the plight of Soviet Jews will remain a key issue at major international forums. "I can assure you that the U.S. will help lead this effort."

Theodore Mann headed an American delegation of over 500; and other prominent Jews and non-Jews sat on the stage representing a total of 31 countries. Jewish Agency Executive chairman Arye Dulzin, chairman of the conference presidium, said it was the largest gathering of its kind since the first Brussels Conference in 1971.

Ambassador Kirkpatrick, who arrived by special plane from the U.S. to attend the conference, maintained that the denial of rights of Soviet Jews to immigrate to Israel and to preserve their cultural and religious heritage while still in Russia was a clear violation of international law and agreements signed by the USSR.

Naming Prisoners of Zion Anatoly Shcharansky, Kim Friedman, Yosef Begun, Victor Brailovsky and others, Kirkpatrick said: "These are among the heroes of the Soviet Jewry struggle. Their cause is our cause, their ideals our ideals. They shall not be forgotten. They are not alone."

The struggle for Jewish emigration, she added, "poses a moral challenge to a system of totalitarianism that cannot tolerate the independent existence of any group, especially one with a clear identity and a long and noble history of resistance against persecution."

President Yitzhak Navon said that the Jews who came to attend the conference were carrying out the injunction that "All Jews are responsible one for another," and that the gentiles came out of conviction.

Simone Veil, former president of the European Parliament and French cabinet minister, who was chairman of the opening session, lauded Israel's democracy, alluding to the establishment of the commission to investigate the Sabra and Shatilla massacres. This example of democracy, she said, was quite unprecedented around the world.

But she surprised delegates by declaring that Israel, which wants justice for all Jews, must do justice to the Palestinian people.

Rhodes Boyson, deputy minister in the Education Department of Great Britain, read out a message from Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher calling for an end to Soviet persecution of its Jews.

Nearly 1,500 delegates from 31 countries gathered in Jerusalem last week for the third World Conference on Soviet Jewry. JUDY SIEGEL reports on various aspects of the conference, which called on the Soviet Union to re-open the gates and to allow emigration to Israel.



Simone Veil, former president of the European Community, addresses the opening session of the international conference on Soviet Jewry in Jerusalem. Seated on the dais, left to right, are: Labour Party chairman Shimon Peres; Rhodes Boyson, representing British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher; Jewish Agency Executive Chairman Arye Dulzin; Prime Minister Menachem Begin; U.S. Ambassador to the UN Jeane Kirkpatrick and Jerusalem Mayor Teddy Kollek. (Ruhnamim Israeli)

Begin says they will be freed Shcharansky plea

Prime Minister Menachem Begin said that the Jerusalem World Conference on Soviet Jewry showed that "the free world does care and it stands together with the Jewish People" in its determination to re-open the gates to Russian Jews who want to live in Israel.

Delivering the closing address of the three-day conference in Binyanei Ha'uma, Begin said that "there is reason to believe that, as happened in the past, the gates will be opened and they'll join us in this country." The campaign following the conference, the premier added, must go on all over the world. "I believe this great conference is the beginning of a permanent campaign to set free our brethren."

Begin was introduced by Theodore Mann, head of the U.S. National Conference on Soviet Jewry, who called the premier "our tower of strength."

An unscheduled speaker was the

New Jersey Governor Thomas Keene, who arrived at the closing session directly from Ben-Gurion Airport, where he landed a few hours before. Keene expressed his full support for the Soviet Jewry campaign and pledged to make a personal effort for the release of *refusednik* Boris Klutz, a Jewish mathematician.

Lawyers attending the conference decided to establish an international human-rights advocacy centre called "Inter-Amicus" that will provide legal defence for all prisoners of conscience. Prof. Irwin Cotler of Canada's McGill University, announced.

Cotler said that the centre would probably be based in Canada, to avoid superpower arguments and because Canada is a signatory of most international agreements regarding human rights.

No future in Soviet Union

Delegates to the Conference heard reports on the worsening condition of Soviet Jews, with many speakers reaching the conclusion that "there is no future for Jews" in the USSR.

Testimony about violence, harassment and discrimination against Jews — "passive" ones in addition to those who have applied for exit permits and who want to study or teach Jewish culture — was plentiful during plenary sessions and workshops in Binyanei Ha'uma.

Jewish Agency Executive chairman Arye Dulzin said that Soviet Jewry, the third largest Jewish community in the world, is in danger of disappearing.

In the workshop on Jewish identity, it was reported that Jews are having difficulty getting divorced because there is no ordained rabbi in Russia.

There are 55 synagogues in Russia today, compared to about 1,000 a generation ago, said Ivan Novick, president of the Zionist Organization of America. But he said that the determination to retain a Jewish identity persists.

British historian Martin Gilbert, who visited Russia only a few days ago, told delegates that young Jews are being harassed with shouts of "Kill the Jews and save Palestine."



Attending the conference on Soviet Jewry is Kopel Ben-Ephraim, one of the foremost activists in Riga for the release of Soviet Jews. He arrived from the Soviet Union at midweek. (Zoom 77)

'The more noise there is the greater the hope'

The remarkable thing about the Third World Conference on Soviet Jewry was that nearly everyone present came because he wished to be there and not because he had to.

Jerusalem's Binyanei Ha'uma, which has been the scene of hundreds of conferences over the years, was graced with the presence of more than 1,000 persons motivated by sincere concern for Jewish suffering in the Soviet Union.

The same halls that witnessed last December's raucous and even violent 30th Zionist Congress were filled to overflowing with Jews and non-Jews whose level of discussion was high, whose meetings were conducted with decorum; and who had no need to lobby for a better attendance.

The organizers — the WZO, B'nai B'rith, the World Jewish Congress and the Israel Public Council for Soviet Jewry — trusted non-professional volunteers to run most of the workshops and plenary sessions. The result was refreshing.

So was the appearance of many young persons who have been active in the cause, as well as large numbers of women, *kippa*-wearing Jews and Christian clergymen.

As eyewitness accounts of anti-Semitic

violence and anti-Zionist repression were given at the conference, the atmosphere was electric. A British professor, just returned from two weeks in Moscow, Leningrad and Minsk, described the heroism of a young Jewish girl: defying the KGB, she testified in defence of a Prisoner of Zion who had allegedly kicked the secret police agent who arrested him for meeting with other Jews in a private apartment. The girl said that she heard a KGB man announce outside the flat: "I want volunteers to testify that the Jews were violent — that means you and you and you." The defendant was sentenced to a year in prison, and the girl — whose father was present in Binyanei Ha'uma — is still a *refusednik*.

Everyone felt the frustration of not knowing what to do to induce the Soviets to reopen the emigration gates, now shut tight.

The delegates discussed every possible suggestion — for "making deals" with the Soviets; for inducing them to allow direct flights of Jewish emigrants to Israel; for drafting the support of political leaders, academics, unionists and clergymen. But while no one knows for sure the way to open the gates, all agree that the more noise there is about the plight of

Soviet Jewry, the greater the hope for their release.

Fourteen leaders of the American Jewish Committee who arrived after a week-long visit to Moscow and Leningrad reported a "serious turn for the worse" in the plight of Soviet Jews.

Maynard Wishner, president of the AJC, said that a new development is the assaults on Jews who have not sought to emigrate. In the past, it was mostly those applying for exit visas who were physically harassed.

Wishner said that he learned of a game called "concentration camp" that has sprung up, apparently spontaneously, in the atmosphere of increased anti-Semitism. In it, a child — invariably a Jew — is given a number by his classmates and is referred to by the number rather than by his name for days on end.

He also reported that the Soviets have initiated a campaign to induce *refusedniks* to "re-can" and withdraw their applications for exit visas, promising that they will be reinstated at work and given favourable treatment. But, Wishner said, "not a single *refusednik*" has agreed to go along with this ploy. The Russians are eager to make it appear that the *aliya* movement has died, he added.

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In every case, the Soviets have been clever at making the emigration process a crushing experience. Maybe they'll free a husband, and not his wife. Maybe they'll insist that a young Soviet fulfill his military obligation first. Then decide he knows too many military secrets to leave. Academics are stripped of titles. Workers are deprived of work. Students are denied entrance to universities. Sounds familiar, doesn't it.

In 1971, the whole world applauded when the first wave of Soviet emigration began.

No one is cheering now. Last year, only 2688 Jews were chosen people. Last month, just 126 were allowed to leave. The bars on the graph

get smaller every year. At this rate of emigration, it will take 1000 years to free them all.

But a curious thing is happening. Soviet *Refuseniks*, so named because their appeals are rejected so frequently, refuse to be daunted. They are even more determined to live free as Jews than their government is to prevent them.

So they wait. And while they wait, they quietly and joyously observe the Jewish holidays. Which is officially discouraged.

They teach Hebrew to their children. Which is banned. And while the movement out of Russia has virtually ground to a halt, the movement inside is alive and kicking back.

The International Conference on Soviet Jewry is meeting in Jerusalem this week. We'll try to find solutions there. We're running this advertisement to keep you aware of the facts. If you would, please spread them around. Because the more people you tell, the more people will know. Maybe public outrage can put an end to this madness.

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OPINION

Why the West Bank is vital

By ZALMAN SHOVAL

SOME DAYS AGO there appeared in *The New York Times* an article by the paper's senior military analyst, Drew Middleton — the main theme of which was that the West Bank may not be as important for Israel's security as it claims — implying that the latter's stance in this matter is motivated more by political considerations than by hard military facts (as if the two can ever be completely divorced from each other). Briefly, Middleton's argument is as follows:

As the Arabs are rethinking their military concepts, and as the Jordanian and other Arab armies now dispose of accurate surface-to-surface missiles, as well as modern long-range (up to 20.3km.) self-propelled artillery, many of the Israeli settlements in Judea and Samaria could come under fire from the other side of the Jordan river, especially at night. And while the mountains of the West Bank offer a formidable barrier to any offensive from the east, and the chain of Jewish settlements in that area could, in certain circumstances, hold off an attack by ground forces "in any future war the Arabs might not do what the Israelis expect them to do — that is to attack frontally across the Jordan valley on to the West Bank — but would adopt a more flexible strategy to cope with an Israeli defence based on these settlements."

Middleton explains that, according to U.S. experts on the area, the attackers could, for instance, use helicopters as gunships and this would enable them "to avoid strong-points and move through less defended areas." He thus concludes that "the basic Israeli military assumption that the absorption of the West Bank will enhance national security is being questioned by critics who believe that it will provide only a moderate and, in war, transient security and could raise more military problems than it solves."

ON THE FACE of it, this argument may look pretty convincing; the point Middleton omits to mention, however, is that at no time were the Jewish settlements on the West Bank intended to be the sole and ultimate barrier against a massive Arab onslaught from the east — and that, in fact, the vital importance of Judea and Samaria for the security of the State of Israel derives from a great number of additional factors.

It is therefore interesting in this context to compare and juxtapose the conclusions of the *Times* article's unnamed "Western officers" with those reached by Gen.(ret.) Arieh Shalev in his recently published book, *The West Bank: Line of Defence*. As he argues convincingly, the most important geo-strategic factor in assessing the external risks facing Israel is the balance of military power. The states facing Israel in the east — Jordan, Syria, Iraq (and perhaps Saudi-Arabia) — have large armies as well as powerful and technologically advanced weapons with which they could disrupt Israel's ability to mobilize its reserves.

In addition, these highly mechanized and mobile Arab armies could also make use of Judea and Samaria's geographical and topographically dominant position to conduct a swift battle of movement aimed at the very heartland of the State of Israel and cut it in two

or conquer Jerusalem. The main point here is that, while most of the land forces of Jordan and Iraq are regulars, most of Israel's are reservists. "It would take Israel 48 hours to mobilize and equip them and move them to the front," says Shalev, and this would give the Arabs a decided advantage in case of a surprise attack.

While Samaria and Judea are mostly mountainous areas, 50km. wide and at some points 1,020m. high, Israel's lowlands, dominated by the Jordan river, contain 67 per cent of the country's population and 80 per cent of its industrial production. All this in an area measuring in some places only 14 km. in width and, as Shalev makes clear, "as weapons systems become more sophisticated, the defence of this strip of land is rendered increasingly difficult."

"All right," runs the counter-argument, "we grant you that Samaria and Judea are of major importance for Israel's security, but can't all this be taken care of, like in Sinai, by demilitarizing the region and stationing all sorts of electronic early-warning devices there?" I'm afraid the answer to this question must be a clear and unequivocal "No."

THE NARROW and densely-populated area of the West Bank is, of course, quite different from the vast — and empty — Sinai desert. While on its southern frontier Israel has ample time to mobilize its reserves to block an advancing land army, on its eastern front it decidedly has not. Any comparison between the two situations is thus misleading, and in order to stall an Arab ground-offensive through Judea and Samaria for at least 48 hours, Israel must have significant regular forces stationed there in fortified positions on a permanent basis.

Shalev's book emphasizes the folly of demilitarization in the present case, by pointing out further that "even if there is no Jordanian military force there, an attack through the West Bank, which is 50km. wide, will be possible. If the West Bank is demilitarized, this prevents an advance deployment of (any) forces, Israel's land forces would not be able to begin battle there at the time of a Jordanian-Iraqi attack, and the IDF would be forced to send regular troops in only after the attack had begun."

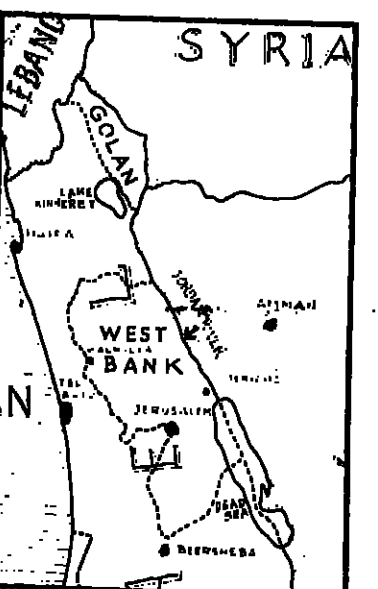
Electronic early-warning systems could be of value, and Israeli data-gathering devices in the high places of Judea and Samaria would increase the chances of Israel's having up to 12 hours' warning of an advance by the Jordanian army. But as has already been pointed out, even this would not provide the margin required for the mobilization of Israel's reserves.

What is more, the lack of a permanent presence of Israeli troops in fortified positions (and this is what demilitarizing the West Bank would mean) would necessitate a permanent call-up of a large number of our reserves — and a state of constant readiness so as to withstand a possible surprise attack which, contrary to what happened in the south in 1973, could be fatal.

There is one further point to be

taken into account: demilitarization of Judea and Samaria, especially in the absence of any Israeli security forces there, would certainly not preclude the areas being turned into a base for paramilitary and terrorist activity against Israel.

WITHOUT WANTING to appear overly wary — or cynical — it is also difficult to ignore the fact that any written agreement on neutralizing the West Bank, given the realities on the ground, might not be very meaningful, for should such an agreement be broken, Israel would in effect no longer be in a position to take the necessary steps to punish the aggressor and nullify the results of his aggression. As my professor of international law, the late Hanse Kelson, taught me, no agreement is worth the paper it's written on unless there also exist sufficient sanctions against the potential transgressor. This certainly applies where the breach of an agreement may sound the death-knell of an entire country and its people.



In this context, one must also mention a political aspect of the matter. Even if Israel were in possession of intelligence indicating an impending Arab attack from the east, it would be problematical, taking into account relations with the U.S., to dispatch forces across the frontier in order to forestall that attack. Would we not once again be branded the "aggressors" — as we might have been in 1973 had we attacked the Egyptians before they crossed the Suez Canal, and as we certainly were in the Lebanese operation?

Shalev also reminds us of the danger of air-attacks, explaining that low-flying enemy planes "can cross the West Bank in three minutes. Even if planes are on high alert in Israel's airports, it will take three minutes for the first pair to take off and these won't have time to intercept the attacking aircraft before they have dropped their bombs... If Israel could locate the enemy planes at the time of their take-off from airfields in Jordan (and Syria), this would give the air force four extra minutes, during which it would be possible to intercept attacking planes."

To accomplish this, Israeli radar stations must be located in the high places of Judea and Samaria. Moreover, in order to overcome the dangers emanating from the lack of

real geographic depth in its air defence, Israel needs, in addition to radar-stations in the West Bank, "an advance air-defence line there that will include ground-to-air missiles" — while "Israeli interceptors must also be allowed to patrol the West Bank."

All this, of course, clearly means that Israel must have a predominant standing in the defence of the West Bank as well as a definite say in its political future — something which the Camp David agreements in fact provided for, but of which the Reagan plan, for one, would deprive us altogether.

AND NOW for the settlements. These do indeed fulfil an important function in the defence of the country, though not that which Middleton erroneously ascribes to them. Of course they could not hold off indefinitely a massive attack by Arab ground forces; but, as Shalev says, "given the special conditions prevailing in the territories (i.e. the mainly Arab population), these settlements do have a place in the defence-plan. Inhabitants of the Jordan Valley could be integrated in a forward defence system... by reinforcing the regular army before the reservists have been mobilized. The settlements on the mountain plateau, and on its slopes, situated near traffic arteries, have a certain military significance in the stage preceding an Arab attack; they should be able to keep the arteries open to traffic, so that the IDF can move forces eastwards to Judea and Samaria."

Therefore, when Middleton says that the settlements will provide only a transient security in war, he is quite right, but this transience could be long enough to make all the difference between Israel's eastern frontier being defensible or not.

All this does not mean, of course, that Israeli defence experts should make light of the risks which possible new strategic concepts and sophisticated weaponry at the disposal of the Arabs might augur for the country's security. But neither does it mean that it can suddenly afford to give up the vital defences provided by Judea and Samaria and make the conventional approach more palatable to a potential aggressor.

The risks are grave in any case, and not only for Israel. The deepening Soviet involvement in Syria's military build-up should certainly influence Israel's strategic thinking, and America's too. But by no stretch of the imagination would either country's interests be served by making Washington's only stable ally in the area more vulnerable to attack — and this is exactly what giving up Judea and Samaria would mean.

Considering the U.S. administration's intensified efforts to bring about a resumption of the peace process along the lines of the Reagan plan, the timing of Drew Middleton's article may or may not have been coincidental. While the plan pays lip-service to Israel's special security concerns although calling for an almost complete end to its presence in the West Bank, Middleton tries to enlarge on this point by stressing the futility of Israel's trying to hold on to it. Be that as it may, most Israelis are not likely to be convinced by either.

The writer is a former Likud-Raf Member of Knesset

THE COMMUNITY

Evolution theory going 'on trial' this week

By CHARLES HOFFMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

The Education Ministry has urged teachers, principals and supervisors to attend a conference on the theory of evolution, to be held in Jerusalem.

A circular was sent last month by the ministry to all school principals recommending that as many educators as possible attend "The First Congress on Inquiries into the Origin of Life and Evolution."

The aim of the conference was explained to *The Jerusalem Post* by Prof. Moshe Tzup of Ben-Gurion University, one of the conference organizers. He said that the idea for the conference was conceived by several Orthodox scientists at the

university. Tzup, a biochemist, said that the theory of evolution "is usually presented incorrectly in the schools as a scientific fact or law of nature, when it is actually nothing more than a hypothesis to explain the origin of life. Indeed, one can find scientific works that demonstrate its lack of plausibility and incompatibility with established natural laws."

He urged that both evolution and creation as the origin of life be taught on an equal basis in the schools. Evolution is not taught in the state religious schools.

The conference is being funded by the National Council for Research and Development, which is part of the Ministry of Science

and Development, and the Israel Academy of Sciences.

Prof. Ya'acov Lorch, who teaches botany and the philosophy of science at the Hebrew University, told *The Post* that the aim of the conference "smacks of 'Creationism,' a movement in the U.S. which 'advocates a religious view of the origin of life masquerading as science.'"

The Creationists in the U.S. have been campaigning for schools to give equal weight and status to theories of creation along with evolution. One of the most vocal opponents of Creationism, Dr. D. Gish of the Creationist Research Society Institute in California, will speak at the Jerusalem conference.

Synthetic skin grafts used

Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — A synthetic skin graft, developed by a West German university, was used for the first time ever with "excellent results" on Israeli soldiers severely burned during the Lebanese war.

Professor Moshe Feuchtwanger, president of the forthcoming 14th National Surgical Congress, disclosed this at a press conference last week, but did not name the university, except to say it was near Munich. He added that no problems of graft rejection arose, and the material contributed considerably to reducing the pain and scars of the burns.

(During the Yom Kippur War grafts from the skins of young pigs were used on burns.)

Feuchtwanger and two other organizers of the congress, Professor Avraham Marash and Gavriel Torok, said that one of the important tasks of the three-day conference will be to sum up the preliminary findings of the treatment of soldiers wounded during the war.

They noted that "regrettably, Israel's doctors are world experts on the subject of war wounds," and the lessons learned here are studied closely by the medical profession abroad.

There are about 450 surgeons in Israel, and another 400 doctors are studying surgery (a six-year course after graduating from medical school).

More money for yeshivot, big families

By AVI TEMKIN
and SARAH HONIG

Finance Minister Yoram Aridor and three religious parties have agreed to the addition of some IS3 billion to the 1983 budget because of coalition obligations to the factions. Some IS2b. will be used to implement the proposed large families law, and IS1b. will be added to the allotment for religious education institutions.

Aridor told his partners that under no circumstances would he agree to print money to finance the programmes, and explained that it was impossible to meet all of the demands.

The Treasury plans to finance the added expense by cutting other civilian ministries' budgets by about 5 per cent.

MKs Yehuda Ben-Meir (NRP) and Shlomo Lorincz (Agudat Yisrael) expressed satisfaction with the settlement. Both said they were renouncing much of what was due them under the coalition agreement, but explained their acquiescence as due to the economic problems facing the country.

Agudat Yisrael and the NRP had reportedly threatened before the meeting to vote against the budget bill if the Treasury did not affirm the sums promised, which were reportedly larger than those granted.

Tami's demands for additional support to large families, were accompanied from the outset by threats that unless the legislation it demands is enacted and takes effect by April 1, it would break away from the coalition.

The ministry does not expect to encounter trouble in outting other budgeted items, since last week's agreement was reached by all the members of the coalition. In the original 1983/84 budget, there was an allocation of IS2.5b. to cover coalition obligations to the NRP and Agudat Yisrael.

According to Israel TV, MK Meir Shitrit (Herut) has voiced his opposition to the settlement and announced that he will vote against the Knesset Finance Committee.

PUBLIC FACES

Mark Segal is on holiday, and his column, "Public Faces," will reappear when he returns.



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A QUIET revolution has taken place in the Israeli defence establishment. It started some two weeks ago, with Ariel Sharon being replaced by Moshe Arens as defence minister, and will come full circle on April 16, when Moshe Levi takes over from Rafael Eitan as chief of staff.

The impact of this revolution has already been felt. There are reports of progress on the Lebanese talks, with Israel giving in on several conditions which would have been non-negotiable with Sharon. There has been a defusion of tension over the possibility of a war with the Syrians in the spring, though the SAM-5 issue seems to have taken on more serious dimensions.

The illegal settlement of el-Nakam was removed after a link was found between settlers there and vigilante acts around Hebron. Simultaneously, IDF reaction to riots on the West Bank was calm, calculated and accompanied by almost no rhetoric.

For the first time in many months defence correspondents have been given a formal briefing on policy by the defence minister, who took the time to discuss the military's relationship with the press after the almost total rupture between the two under Sharon, and specifically since the war in Lebanon.

After 18 months of what one senior defence official who served under Sharon has called "a bad hallucinatory trip," there is suddenly a feeling of normality again. There is an address for questions, avenues of recourse for both defence officials and the public. There are consultations before every move and every decision. Things are done properly.

BUT WHAT does this all really mean? On analysis, there will be very profound differences between a team with Arens and Moshe Levi at the top, and the one headed by Sharon and Rafael Eitan.

The primary difference is in the attitude one can expect to the application of the use of force as a political philosophy. Sharon and Eitan both believed fundamentally that the use of force was a legitimate, and even preferred, means of attaining primary policy goals. Operation Peace for Galilee was a façade for radically changing the Lebanese power structure. The destruction of the PLO infrastructure and the removal of the knife

A military 'revolution'

Defence Correspondent Hirsh Goodman believes there will be radical changes in the operation of Israel's military establishment with Moshe Arens now minister and Moshe Levi to take over as chief of staff. An essential difference, he says, is that Arens and Levi are not wedded to the idea of force as a political instrument, as were their predecessors.



Chief of Staff designate Aluf Moshe Levi (left) and Defence Minister Moshe Arens (centre) visit IDF troops in Lebanon.

from Galilee's throat was a goal; but it was only part of a larger master-plan in the pursuance of which force was used mercilessly.

Eitan's and Sharon's orders for trying to ensure subservience on the West Bank and in Gaza were testimony to their belief that might is right. Force was used at the diplomatic level, too, as was apparent in the bullying of the late Bashir Jemayel and Morris Draper and the implied threats in communiques. The use of force was seriously discussed with regard to Syria.

It seems that Arens and Levi, have other concepts of what is in the interests of Israel's security.

Arens is known to believe very profoundly that Israel must get out of Lebanon. He has drawn up a list of minimal requirements for Israel's security and for Israel's future relations with Lebanon, and has made these known. It was his idea to dispatch Foreign Minister Yitzhak Shamir to Washington to present these new ideas and new hopes for a settlement, indicating yet another fundamental change. Arens has decided that all negotiations will be handled by the diplomats, not the Defence Ministry. This includes Egypt and Lebanon, except for issues of a purely defence nature — a dramatic departure from the days of Sharon, when Shamir was neutralized and Sharon and his private staff handled everything.

Arens and Levi believe that a strong Israel is one that projects an image of strength. For the image to be credible the IDF has to be efficient, non-controversial, technologically attuned to the 21st century, and backed by strong ties with the U.S. An important element in the Arabs' perception of Israel is how united the population of this country is.

In order to achieve these ends, war has to be avoided unless absolutely necessary, they believe, so that when the real challenge comes it can be met. There is no need to provoke that challenge; the role of the defence establishment is, rather, to give the government the backing it needs to achieve policy goals at the negotiating table.

THERE ARE, however, two types of war: those you initiate and those that are thrust on you. The probability of the former has lessened considerably with the advent

of Arens and Levi; but the question is, how will they perform as a team if Israel is attacked?

There is no comparing the battle experience of Sharon and Eitan with that of the Chief of Staff-designate. Levi has never commanded a sizeable force in battle, always having been caught behind a desk except in 1956, when he was a junior officer when the paratroops took the Mitla. True, there was a short period in the late 1960s when he commanded the brigade that conducted countless skirmishes with terrorists in the Jordan and Beisan Valleys.

Both the other contenders for the top military post, Avigdor Ben-Gal and Dan Shomron, have had richer command experience, but neither has enjoyed Levi's protracted tenure at IDF headquarters and at staff level. Shomron and Ben-Gal are known for their imagination in both tactics and strategy, and for their ability to motivate their men, who will undertake missions because they trust the judgement of their commanders.

Imagination and trust are crucial elements in the event of Israel having to fight a defensive war, where the enemy will probably ensue both surprise and numerically superior land forces. But there is no reason to assume that, despite Levi's personal lack of active experience, the IDF would fight a stodgy war of defence.

Levi would be surrounded by field officers with vast collective experience, who would probably enjoy more freedom of action and decision under him than under one of the other candidates.

And the IDF as a whole will enjoy more independence on the operational level under Arens, than it had under Sharon.

It is difficult, therefore, perhaps even foolish, to make any assumptions about the IDF's future performance under Arens and Levi if Israel is attacked. It is comforting, on the other hand, to be able to feel fairly confident that the chances of a pre-emptive war being launched by Arens and Levi, as opposed to the previous team, have lessened perceptibly.

And for that reason alone the nation should heave a sigh of relief over the changes that have been taking place during the past few weeks.

the framework of the Lebanese Army. What exactly would happen to Haddad remained unclear.

BEFORE Shamir arrived in Washington, Israel had backed off from other demands related to an eventual normalization of relations with Lebanon. Shamir and other Israeli officials, for example, pointedly avoided using the word "normalization," aware of Lebanese sensitivities. Instead, they spoke of "good neighbourly relations."

IN THE WAKE of Shamir's visit, the Americans have been reassured that Israel is sincere in seeking an early withdrawal from Lebanon. U.S. officials are no longer accusing Israel of negotiating in bad faith — of stalling in the talks in order to avoid having to get involved in Reagan's September 1 peace initiative.

Thus both Shamir and Arens are receiving a lot of the credit for improving the atmosphere between Washington and Jerusalem.

The Sharon imprint, U.S. officials said, appears to have been erased

significantly. What is important to remember, they added, is that an actual agreement in Lebanon could really go a long way in improving U.S.-Israel ties.

The Reagan Administration, for one thing, is desperate for a foreign policy achievement. It has not really had one since taking office more than two years ago.

The Middle East is seen as a good place to score some points with the American people.

Israeli officials sense that Reagan and his political aides would be grateful for such a diplomatic victory. The administration could be expected to "sweeten the pot" for Israel in the process, perhaps by releasing the embargoed F-16 fighters and the funds and technology necessary for the development of the new generation Levi fighter. There are many other pending Israeli requests which could also be approved.

All this, of course, will depend on how Israel plays its cards. If Arens has his way, the American-Israeli picture could improve dramatically in the coming weeks.

PROFILE

WHEN David Levy was born on December 21, 1937, in Rabat the capital of Morocco, his mother, Sima, noticed at once that he was different from other baby boys. He had been born already circumcised. Surprised and somewhat concerned by this, Sima asked her husband to consult the rabbi. Moshe Levy consulted the Rabbi of Rabat, Yehoshua Bardugo.

Telling of his visit to Rabbi Yehoshua Bardugo, Moshe Levy says:

"I went to the rabbi's house. He was a good friend of the family and I told him about the baby. The rabbi asked to see the child himself. When he had examined him, he said, 'This child will be a king or a minister in Israel.' My wife and I looked at one another but had nothing to say. The child of Rabat Jews born to rule? Rule what? A Moslem state? The land of Israel was under foreign rule."

But Sima believed what the rabbi had told her. She asked the rabbi to tell her more about his prophecy, and he explained that, according to tradition, many of the great men of Israel, including Moses and King David, were born circumcised. His explanations convinced her, and for years she waited, in absolute faith, for the prophecy to be fulfilled.

Rachel Levy says that "when David and I were married in Beit She'an in 1958, we were in very difficult circumstances. David's mother came to console me. She told me of the rabbi's prophecy and said, 'I used to think that David would be a king in the Diaspora. Now I am sure he will be a minister in Israel, even though right now he is a penniless building labourer.' I laughed when she talked like that, but over the years I have seen that David really was born to greatness."

Sima Levy lived to see her son appointed a minister in the government of Israel, but she was convinced that this was not the complete fulfilment of the prophecy. Shortly before her death, with her family gathered around her, she said "David, you will still go further. David, embarrassed, pleaded with her 'Mother, please, you know how I hate to hear you talk like that.'"

Two weeks after her death, David Levy sat for the first time in the chair of the prime minister of Israel, as a deputy for Menachem Begin, who was absent from a cabinet meeting because he had fallen and broken his hip. David Levy came to the meeting wearing a black skullcap, a stubble of beard on his face, for he was still in mourning for his mother.

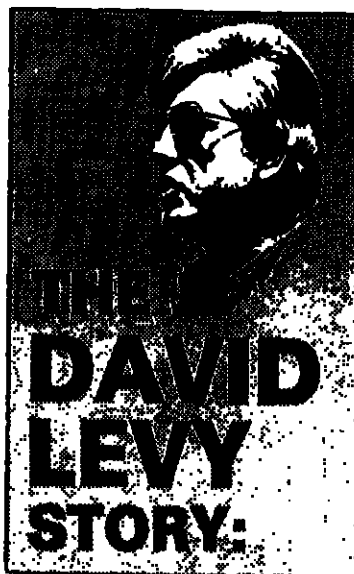
Several of the "other" ministers came up to him, shook his hand and offered their condolences... But David Levy seemed sunk in thought. What was he thinking about on this day, one of the most important in his political life? "I was thinking about my mother," he says.

THERE WAS very little difference between the Levy family and the other 3,000 Jews who lived in Rabat in the 1940s. They were an island in a world of 15,000 non-Jews. Moshe Levy was born to Masoud and Miriam Levy in Casablanca. When he was 19 his family, economically hard-pressed, moved to Rabat, where Moshe learned to be a carpenter. He served a two-year apprenticeship, without wages, to learn his trade.

He had met Sima, his future wife, a girl of his own age, in Casablanca. Sima, who lived with her step-father (her own father, a small merchant, had died very young) wanted to get married and raise a family. She and Moshe were married when they

A MOTHER'S VISION

Sima Levy waited more than 40 years for the prophecy of a Rabat rabbi to be fulfilled. Two weeks after her death her son sat in the seat of the Prime Minister of Israel. In the first chapter of his new biography of David Levy, ARYE AVNERI describes the family's life in Morocco.



DAVID LEVY STORY:

were 17. Moshe was having a hard time supporting the family in Casablanca and decided to take them to Rabat, hoping for better opportunities there. His hopes were fulfilled. Having completed his apprenticeship he found work in a furniture factory. Two years later, his first son, Asher, was born.

In speaking of those years, Asher Levy says, "True, Father was the head of the family and Mother paid him a lot of respect. But it was she who set the tone in the household, for she was the dominant personality. We loved them both, but it was she who put her stamp on each of us. From her we got our values and the guidelines we have followed all our lives."

David Levy adds: "Mother did everything Father said, but when it came to the education of the children, she did what she thought best."

Their father was very much occupied with the carpentry shop, and usually came home late in the evening, tired from his labours. Sima always tried to have a meal ready, especially his favourite dishes, and sat beside him while he ate, filling him in about all that had happened during the day.

David was born when his brother Asher was two years old. He was named for the brother of his grandfather, Rabbi David Levy, who died

young, but had already acquired a name as a teacher and a commentator. Like most of the Jews of Morocco, the Levys were religious. Their mother observed the dietary laws very strictly, and their father spent Shabbat in the synagogue. He sometimes went to the synagogue on weekdays, too, taking his children with him.

Asher recalls: "In the winter, if one of the children was unable to go to the synagogue, he still had to get up in the morning and say his prayers at home. Mother was careful to see that we did, for she knew that otherwise Father would be displeased. We would get up before daylight and say the morning prayers according to the Sephardi tradition."

But the family table was also a focal point for the Levy family. Their mother had a certain ritual for eating. They never ate hurriedly and they never raised their voices. They sang and they talked throughout the meal and not only on Shabbat. Whenever there was a guest, Sima would lay the table with the Sabbath china and cutlery. She always made the guest feel that he was welcome and respected.

By the time their sister Meri was born, two years after David, the Levys were in a much better financial situation. Moshe had opened his own carpentry for household and office furnishings and the family moved to a more spacious flat. The children also had better clothes, although even when they had little money, Sima had always taken a great deal of care over dressing her brood.

Sima had faith in David's future but she was especially attached to her eldest son, Asher, partly because he was named for her own father. She used to say, "Asher is the apple of my eye. Leave him alone."

Asher knew how to take advantage of his mother's affection. He would torment David, knowing full well that he would not be punished. David, who from an early age was both bigger and stronger than his older brother, suffered the harassment without retaliating. He knew that his mother didn't want anyone

to hurt Asher.

Of his childhood, David Levy says, "We were very close. Mother managed to instil each of us with the determination to sacrifice everything for the family. To this day, if one of the family is in danger, I instinctively hope that whatever is to happen will happen to me, not them."

One of the central things in David Levy's youth was the Bible, a great deal of which he can still quote by heart. This is not only because of his phenomenal memory, but because he has a very special attachment to the Bible. "I can't say I was the best in class," says David. "I was quite a rascal, but in the subjects I loved I was very good — history, geography but most of all, the Bible. I was fascinated by Abraham and his eternal search for truth, by his willingness to leave everything and follow God's command. And also by his war against other gods and his search for the promised land. Even today, the wonder of this has never left me. I find myself praying on Yom Kippur, and suddenly I am overwhelmed."

Another figure who played a leading role in my thoughts was Jacob. His love for Rachel and the sense of loss that followed him until his death, his firm stand against the king of Egypt. And Joseph, his son, who was ruler over a great land but when he saw his brother was ready to give up everything for the sake of his family.

"But most of all, I have always found the story of King David gripping. What do we learn from David? That a man need not be born a king, that it's not important where you were born, but what you are. Even if you were born a shepherd you can become a king, but when you do, you remain the same man you were before. King David was a man who made many mistakes, but he knew how to admit them and go forward."

The subject of aliyah to Israel was always present in the Levy household, but Moshe wasn't enthusiastic about going to Israel, particularly after he had at last become successful. He supported

the idea in principle, but proposed waiting. Sima was torn between her natural caution, which told her not to do anything that might disrupt the family, and a sure intuition that there was no future for her sons in Morocco. However, she was very depressed during the early '40s due to a series of miscarriages after Meri's birth, and saw this as an evil omen. She was not happy until her son Charlie was born. Meri says that the birth of Charlie "brought a ray of light into the home."

DAVID STARTED to work in his father's carpentry shop when he was 12, while he was still at school. His father needed his help, for he was working very hard to support his growing family. After Charlie, four more children — Maxim, Eli, Armand and Gilbert — were added to the Levy household. Young David displayed a talent for working with wood and, according to his father, was soon as good as a veteran worker in the shop.

But even then, David had begun to develop his sense of responsibility to the family. His father describes it thus:

"David would come straight home from school and spend time with the smaller children. He had a quiet authority and they respected him. He helped them with their lessons before he went off to study Talmud and Torah."

Of his passion for books, David says: "I read everything, mostly in French but in Hebrew as well, although we didn't get many books in Hebrew. I loved Victor Hugo and his descriptions of life. It was through his books that I developed a concern for the weak and the underdog. We were also hungry for news of our brothers in Palestine. We listened avidly to the broadcasts of *Kol Zion Lagala*, and we learned to sing Hebrew songs, songs of hope, of Jerusalem and of the Kinneret. We even learned to sing in Yiddish!"

First of a series of excerpts from 'David Levy,' by Arye Avneri, Tel Aviv, Revivim Publishers, 303 pp. (Hebrew) By arrangement with the author and Revivim Publishers. Excerpt translated for 'The Post' by D'vora Ben Shaul.

David's mother, Sima, who believed rabbi's prophecy of son's fame.



Diplomatic games

Wolf Blitzer writes from Washington

hours of meetings in Washington this past week what former president Jimmy Carter, former secretary of state Henry Kissinger and other American diplomats learned much earlier — namely, that it is always easier for Israel and the Arab states to make concessions to the U.S. rather than to each other.

PRESIDENT Ronald Reagan spent 30 minutes meeting with Shamir. Signalling U.S. even-handedness, he devoted the same amount of time to Salem two days later.

He told both men what they wanted to hear. Shamir received strong American assurances in support of Israel's security requirements. Salem was told that the U.S. was determined to press ahead in the talks to remove all foreign forces from Lebanon.

But Reagan's participation in the meetings was not all that significant. It was Secretary of State George Schultz who proved to be the key personality.

Shamir made it clear that Israel was prepared to soften its earlier demand that a small number of its soldiers remain active in patrolling Southern Lebanon and in mounting anti-terrorist observation posts there, according to U.S. officials. Lebanon, they said, has insisted on a total Israeli pullout.

The U.S. came forward with a proposal that an elite Lebanese Army unit — backed by American equipment, training, support and even personnel — would take charge in the South. Major Sa'ad Haddad's pro-Israel troops, the Americans said, would receive an "honourable" role, although within

the framework of the Lebanese Army. What exactly would happen to Haddad remained unclear.

BEFORE Shamir arrived in Washington, Israel had backed off from other demands related to an eventual normalization of relations with Lebanon. Shamir and other Israeli officials, for example, pointedly avoided using the word "normalization," aware of Lebanese sensitivities. Instead, they spoke of "good neighbourly relations."

IN THE WAKE of Shamir's visit, the Americans have been reassured that Israel is sincere in seeking an early withdrawal from Lebanon. U.S. officials are no longer accusing Israel of negotiating in bad faith — of stalling in the talks in order to avoid having to get involved in Reagan's September 1 peace initiative.

Thus both Shamir and Arens are receiving a lot of the credit for improving the atmosphere between Washington and Jerusalem.

The Sharon imprint, U.S. officials said, appears to have been erased

significantly. What is important to remember, they added, is that an actual agreement in Lebanon could really go a long way in improving U.S.-Israel ties.

The Reagan Administration, for one thing, is desperate for a foreign policy achievement. It has not really had one since taking office more than two years ago.

The Middle East is seen as a good place to score some points with the American people.

Israeli officials sense that Reagan and his political aides would be grateful for such a diplomatic victory. The administration could be expected to "sweeten the pot" for Israel in the process, perhaps by releasing the embargoed F-16 fighters and the funds and technology necessary for the development of the new generation Levi fighter. There are many other pending Israeli requests which could also be approved.

All this, of course, will depend on how Israel plays its cards. If Arens has his way, the American-Israeli picture could improve dramatically in the coming weeks.

BACKGROUND

THE BALLROOM of the Plaza Hotel in Tiberias is no battlefield, and the tables there were arranged to accommodate the Jewish-Arab conflict along reasonable lines. It was peaceful enough, in that nobody threw even a cream-puff, but it was hardly divorced from political reality.

The occasion was the meeting recently of more than 60 chairmen of Galilee local authorities, roughly half of them Jews and half Arabs. The purpose, stated over and over, was to reduce tension and increase understanding between the two populations in the north by emphasizing common ground and avoiding areas of dissension. This was formulated at the start by Nazareth's Mahmoud Zoubi, of the Government Information Office, one of the meeting's initiators, and at the close by Haim Kubersky, director-general of the Interior Ministry.

The formula of sticking to shared concerns at the municipal level such as sewage and schools — and keeping away from the national level, where ideology takes over, can be seen in either of two ways. By cynics, as a continuation of the policy of defusing Arab nationalism by containing its representatives within "ignominious" issues; at worst, a sort of long-standing autonomy. Or, by the more optimistic, as the realization that daily matters are of more concrete interest to the citizen than the super-issues of politics.

Yet the national issues were always in the air. The land problem — specifically, the recent decision to incorporate Arab land in the new Misgav Regional Council. Accusations from the Arab side of budgetary discrimination. And from the mayor of Nazareth — Knesset Member Tewfik Zayyad, of the communist Rakah party — the charge of "racism" which brought from the generally well-behaved gathering a cry of "Let him speak, he's just acting, like in the Knesset." There was much talk of bridge-building, but it is impossible to keep politics out of the sewage. There was no agenda, no decisions, only a succession of speeches aired in order to clear the air.

IT IS NO WONDER that no foreign media people turned up, because you cannot televise the fact that nowhere else in the Middle East could this gathering of town-hall leaders have taken place. The local press did report that a Jewish council head left the hall in protest against the provocative remarks of the mayor of Nazareth. But there was so much coming and going during speeches that it was impossible to tell what was a demonstrative call of politics, and what simply a call of nature.

Statistically, response to the invitations surprised and pleased the organizers: about 90 per cent of the invited officials turned up. But as many speakers pointed out, any results will come not from further speeches, but from the work of sub-committees taking up the specific grievances of suspicious neighbours. Much of the Arab-Jewish conflict was there in the Plaza ballroom, and if not in a nutshell, which is hardly possible, at least within the manageable dimensions of the kosher mouse, whose indefinable flavour ended the gala luncheon and meeting.

"Meetings can't solve problems," said Haim Kubersky after the meal course. "The problem of the Arab village is infrastructure. But there can be either understanding, or sharpened conflict."

An Arab village in Galilee.

Encounter in Galilee

For demographic reasons, the near future of Galilee may bring new problems to the conflict. David Cohen, head of the Salim Tsor Regional Council and a former Alignment MK: "I am against referring to the 'Judaization' of Galilee. Call it development."

However, if it is important to be able to communicate through a common language, then Galilee is unique, as a result of the emergent young leadership of Oriental Jews. The mayors of three important towns — Afula, Tiberias, and Safad — all speak Arabic and, incidentally, all speak with the sweet voice of reason. I doubt whether one is likely to hear a mayor in the Dan Region throw out a pithy Arabic saying such as "A near neighbour is better than a distant brother," as did Aharon Nahmias of Safad.

OVADIA ALI (*kippa*, spectacles, moustache; Alignment), the mayor of Afula, was one of the initiators of the meeting. "We have differences of opinion, differences in our view of the world," he said. "What we must look for is common ground, consensus. In the development of Galilee, when a road is built both Arabs and Jews drive on it." Like many other speakers, both Jewish and Arab, he stressed the importance of joint activities for youth through sports and other contacts.

Yigal Bibi (*kippa*, spectacles, moustache; NRP) opened the event as Mayor of Tiberias, the host city. "I had a long conversation recently with high-school pupils in Shfaram," Bibi told us. "They are thirsty for contacts with Jewish youth... Every country has its warring factions, its conflicts between races and religions. Our challenge is to find peaceful solutions."

Mayor Bibi was hopeful that the level of the day's proceedings would be high. Among the participants, he pointed out, were three MKs, from the Likud, the Alignment and Rakah; perhaps the level might even be higher than at the Knesset, and show more understanding.

From the audience: "More like in the Knesset cafeteria!"

Mediawise, the spectacle of a wall-to-wall blossoming of identical red roses — presented to each par-

By HELGA DUDMAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

ticipant by the organizers — on lapel buttonholes from Likud to Rakah made a very pretty picture, and the local reporters, in their ceaseless search for piquancy, were much taken by the spectacle of Likud MK Benny Shalita, chairman of the Menahemiya local council, positively cuddling up to fellow MK Tewfik Zayyad.

PREDICTABLY mayor Zayyad delivered the most politically inflammatory speech: "Yes, there is one law for all of us — but the reality is different. We suffer from discrimination, budgetary discrimination, but most of all we suffer from lack of land. It has been taken from us... In Nazareth, we still bury our dead in the old cemetery."

Mayor Yigal Bibi: "Just as we do in Tiberias!"

Sewage is important, said the Nazareth mayor with passion, and so are roads, "but unless we build a future for the two peoples in their common land, all those roads will go nowhere." Why were there no Build Your Own Home programmes in Arab villages? Why had the Ministry of Tourism not provided a *gushk* to develop sites at Kafir Kanna? "Yes, the very site where Jesus performed the miracle of turning water into wine." (Smirks here from Arab journalists representing left-wing papers.)

He was followed by his very close neighbour, the mayor of Upper Nazareth, Menahem Ariav (Alignment), who can hold his own in any situation.

THE COMPLAINT about the lack of development in Arab villages was taken up by several Jewish local council heads. Mayor Ephraim Sharir of Nahariya: "Both of our peoples have most of their population living elsewhere. What do the Jews abroad do for their people here? And what do the Arabs abroad do for theirs?"

Shlomo Butbul, whose township of Ma'alot-Tarshiha combines a Jewish development-town majority with a large Arab-village minority: "Anybody who thinks that industrial development just sprouts is

Shalita: And Arabs should serve in the army.

Zayyad: Is this a municipal problem?

Shalita: I am an MK, and can deal with national problems.

A participant: And besides, you have immunity.

Zayyad: There's a limit to everything.

Shalita: Furthermore, I want to pay you a compliment, you are much better than you used to be.

Bibi: (After an untranslated phrase in Arabic): Please stick to the subject.

AT THE LUNCHEON level, which is several notches below the municipal level, I also found much to wonder at. There were seven at my table — four Jews and three Arabs. Only two did not know Arabic, the dummies being myself and another journalist.

At my left, politically and napkin-wise was Yussuf Srur, local council chairman of Ellabun, a Moslem-Christian village astride the National Water Carrier. With typical Arab hospitality, even before the soup, he had warmly invited me to visit his village. He told me that he is a member of the Democratic Front, which I assume means Rakah at the local level, but he works at a good formerly colonial bank, Barclays. To his left, but not politically, was his deputy Josef (pronounced the French way) Mualem, who told me that he is the National Religious Party representative on the Ellabun council.

Such party truths, which I think would charm *The New York Times*, do not raise an eyebrow when elected representatives gather in Israel. I asked whether Mualem's affiliation involves the same arrangements as when, say, a Beduin tribe registers a few Aguda votes, which I seem to remember noting during some election, and which I assume is a matter of money.

"Not at all," said Mualem, who does not wear a *kippa*. "It's all for the good of the village." The good being, apparently, a clear channel to the NRP ministries.

We exchanged telephone numbers; and I had the very strong impression that just about every Arab present in the dining room would greatly welcome more contact with Israeli Jews. Ellabun village. Srur told me, organizes outings to Beit She'an, and the third Arab at the table said, "It's important that our children simply see us together."

With all the cynicism that nurtures politics, this is a strange piece of human yearning poking through what seem insoluble antagonisms: after all, 50 years ago Galilee was the scene of countless personal friendships between Arabs and Jews, which disappeared like petals in a storm with the outbreak of violence.

"Politics has an influence in Israel out of all proportion," Srur said, sounding more like Barak than the Democratic Front. The local council head of Ma'alot-Tarshiha had said earlier: "Internal political divisions within our villages are our basic disaster, and can make it impossible to elect representatives."

I asked Srur what, then, was the subject of those endless discussions of the Arab "street" — wasn't it politics? Not at all, he assured me. Then what are the things Arab men talk about in their cafes? — a question to which nobody except an Arab man can know the answer.

"Among the younger ones, the *boursa* (stock exchange)," he said with a smile.

INSIGHT

THE DENSE fog shrouding the Hebron hills slowed traffic to a snail's pace and oddly reassured Jewish travellers.

There would be no stone-throwing that evening. In the thick mist that covered the Hebron-Jerusalem road (a distance of about 35 kilometres) you couldn't tell a Jewish vehicle from an Arab one.

In general, however, it was unpleasant driving in the West Bank last week. In addition to the stonings that were reported, there were numerous other incidents that did not merit headlines.

Approaching Bethlehem from the south, I saw a stationary Border Police command car and Arab vehicles lined up at what seemed like a checkpoint.

The sergeant flashed his searchlight at me and said: "It's O.K. You can go now. The road is clear."

Moments earlier the road had been blocked by rocks and rusty, empty barrels. An Arab driver, who had been stopped by the police, rolled the barrels away and got rid of the rocks.

A commander in a passing police jeep, with an iron mesh screen protecting its windshield, said such incidents were common.

As a motorist I found myself looking for signs of trouble. By and large there weren't any. On the main road in Halhul, which was under partial curfew after recent attacks, children sloshed through puddles, two boys rode a bicycle, and women wearing long white shawls carried food past an army command car, presumably to their homes.

But smoke rising above a narrow road near a refugee camp told a different story. It could have been a burning tyre. One wondered if the clenched fists of passing youngsters concealed stones. Some residents of Kiryat Arba, the Jewish suburb of Hebron, said Arab children always go to school with stones in their hands.

"DEEP inside me I'm scared," Aviva Butavia said at her snack bar at the entrance to Kiryat Arba. "We went to a movie in Jerusalem last night, returned at 1 o'clock, and all

Learning to live with danger

By JOSHUA BRILLIANT / Jerusalem Post Reporter



At a Kiryat Arba kindergarten. This picture was taken in the early years of the settlement.

the time we kept watching in case some son of a bitch popped out."

The stoning has kept tourists away and affected business. Few people came to the settlers' restaurant near the Cave of Machpela in Hebron; the Eshkol Hotel in Kiryat Arba reported that most of its reservations had been cancelled. During a half-hour meeting in the lobby with manager Doron Kabei one afternoon, the only people I saw were hotel employees.

But several buses and cars brought hundreds of guests to a wedding in the local yeshiva. Most of the people arrested a week ago for attempting to storm and occupy the Temple Mount were students of that yeshiva. Guests in white shirts and knitted skullcaps danced around the bride and groom, and the only sign of tension was one of

the guests standing in a corner with a loaded Galt rifle.

The guests, most of whom came from other West Bank settlements, shared the belief that life must continue normally, despite the stoning.

None of the Kiryat Arba residents interviewed admitted to ever having been deterred from travelling. They regarded the attacks as just another hazard. "There's also fear in Jerusalem's Mahane Yehuda, but people go there," said Lishava Ben Haim, a resident of Beit Hadassah in Hebron. "My husband was in New York recently and all the time was told it was dangerous to go here and dangerous to go there."

ASKED whether he was not concerned about his son Yishai's daily trips to high school in Jerusalem, attorney Eliakim Haetzni shrugged. "I didn't come here to live in a villa.

I already have a villa in Ramat Hen la suburb of Ramat Gan. Only Jewish settlement will prevent the establishment of a Palestinian state — and that's worth a price."

But while this appeared to be the dominant view, there were some who talked of leaving Kiryat Arba. One man said that for the past six months he has been looking for a flat in Jerusalem. However, his apartment in Kiryat Arba would fetch only \$30,000-\$35,000, and a comparable flat in an inexpensive neighbourhood in the capital would cost between \$60,000 and \$80,000. He can't raise that much money. He said he had moved to Kiryat Arba in the '70s for "nationalistic reasons." But he can't find a suitable job there and must commute daily to the bank in Jerusalem where he works.

He has been through several stonings incidents — one of them when he was bringing a baby home from the maternity ward. The stone hit the body of the car and shook it, but caused no other damage.

"I love the place. We've had nice days here," he said. "But the time wasted getting to Jerusalem and back and the dangers involved sometimes make me ask what I need all this for. It's better to leave and lead a more comfortable life. On the other hand you ask: why give it as a present to the Arabs?"

It is difficult to say how many people feel the same way. Zvi Katsover, one of the prominent members of the Kiryat Arba community, estimated that 10 to 20 families are considering moving out at least temporarily.

"If someone says he's leaving because of poor security, he would be considered a gutless coward," another resident, Noam Arnon, said. So people don't talk about it, they arm themselves with sub-machine-guns and pistols.

Some said they would hesitate to use their weapons. Katsover said he tended not to go armed so as not to drive through a roadblock with a false sense of security.

"Sometimes I'm afraid I'll shoot a stone-thrower and he's convicted," Shlomo Meguri-Cohen said.

Standing orders say one must first

shoot into the air; but Arnon does not believe that would be effective. He said he had been in Ramallah when soldiers fired into the air. Arab girls laughed at them and made obscene gestures, he recalled.

The next step would be shooting at attackers' legs — there was always the fear that the bullet may hit elsewhere.

"If one stone hits you and that's all, you must drop the matter," Arnon said. "But under sustained stoning, you've got to protect yourself. You'll have a problem with the police, but that's a risk you must take. I'd rather be a live prisoner than die a free man," he observed.

Others recommended stoning Arabs back. That is the most commonly held view, Katsover said. "Then the army will not say we are taking the law into our own hands."

Residents have resorted to counter-attacks, but sometimes these leave an awkward taste.

Haetzni said his son Yishai was involved in such an incident last week.

He was going by bus to Jerusalem and was stoned near El-Arsh. No damage was done, but the bus stopped, the passengers picked up stones and ran into the refugee camp, hurling stones and banging on doors.

"They were trying to chase the attackers, but something very embarrassing happened. Residents opened their doors and said, 'Come in and see if there is anyone here.' An old woman came out and said they had been Kiryat Arba's good neighbours for years, so why were they to blame."

"We stood there open-mouthed," Haetzni quoted his son as saying. "The attackers were no longer around and we returned with our tails between our legs."

The residents demanded the army take more stringent measures against stone-throwers. Expelling five trouble-makers to Jordan would restore quiet, a member of the Council of Jewish settlements in Judea, Samaria and Gaza said.

Such action should be accompanied by other measures, Haetzni suggested. "The stone-throwing has been going on for 15 years and Israel has found no solution."

THE ISLAMIC BOMB

STEVE WEISSMAN

HERBERT KROSNEY

US\$15.50

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THE FESTIVAL

PESSAH is my favourite holiday. The beautiful story of the Haggada, the gathering of family and friends, the feast of delicious food all make this time of the year so special. Everyone has their own traditional Pesach recipes. The following are a few of my favourite ones, which I hope will contribute to your collection, and add to your enjoyment of the holiday.

Haroset
My children's favourite at the Seder table.
300 gr. filberts, unsalted, unpeeled
450 gr. apples, peeled, cored
1/2 cup sweet red wine
2 1/2 tsp. ground cinnamon
sugar to taste
With a food mill, meat grinder, or food processor, finely grind the nuts and apples. Combine with rest of ingredients. Cover loosely and chill for at least one hour.

Brown Eggs for Pessah
These are special eggs for the Seder table and for the whole Pesach week. When peeled, they are brown, creamy and delicious. Allow one to 2 eggs per person.
Wash egg shells thoroughly and carefully. In a large pot with a tight-fitting lid, place the eggs and fill the pot with cold water. Slowly bring the water to a boil. Turn to the lowest possible heat. Cover, and simmer slowly for 24 hours, adding water as necessary. These will keep well in the fridge for at least a week or two.

Chicken Soup
The old-fashioned kind.
One 1/2 to 2 kilo chicken, cleaned and left whole
3 large, meaty marrow or knuckle beef bones
200 gr. gizzards, cleaned and halved
18 cups cold water
250 gr. onion, finely diced
200 gr. celery with leaves, finely diced
300 gr. carrots, peeled, halved and quartered
3 sprigs fresh dill
1 tbs. salt, or to taste
1 tsp. fresh white pepper
In an eight-litre kettle, place chicken, bones, gizzards and water. Bring to a boil, skimming the froth as it rises. Add rest of ingredients. Cover and simmer for two-and-a-half hours until the chicken is tender. Remove the chicken and reserve for another use (see note). Remove and discard bones. Let the soup cool and skim the fat. Reheat and serve with matza balls.
Note: The chicken can be used for chicken salad and Chinese dishes.

Matza Balls
These feather-light dumplings are good any time of the year, but es-

pecially suitable for Pessah. Makes 18 large balls.
1 cup matza meal
2 eggs
1 tsp. salt
1/2 cup cold chicken broth
2 tbs. ground ginger
3 tbs. chicken fat, rendered, softened
In a mixing bowl, combine all ingredients together thoroughly. Chill covered for at least one hour. With moistened hands, make balls and drop them into boiling, salted water. After a minute or so, if they stick, gently release the balls from the bottom of the pot with a wooden spoon. Simmer, covered, for 30 minutes. Remove with a slotted spoon to a bowl.
Roast Turkey
This is the most delicious turkey you'll ever eat. It is very moist and tender. The secret is not to overcook. Follow cooking times exactly and I promise you rave reviews. This is always holiday fare for us. Allow 350 to 450 grams per person. The day before the big event, clean and season the turkey. Sprinkle inside and outside on all sides with salt, pepper, lots of ground ginger and a light sprinkling of sweet paprika. Cover loosely and refrigerate.

THE ESSENTIAL difference between celebrating Pessah in Israel and celebrating it in the Diaspora is, in a word, confusion. In the Diaspora, the various rabbinic councils take great pains to advertise in the Jewish press those products which are under their supervision. In some places, they also make a point of explaining what is permitted to Sephardim and forbidden to Ashkenazim, and vice versa.
Generally speaking, Jewish communities abroad have to contend with not more than three individual rabbinic councils — one which is very stringent (and, in the case of Pessah foods, will not approve matza balls which it considers to be leavened); one which is fairly strict, but does approve matza balls; and another which is comparatively lax. In Israel, the Chief Rabbinate

makes no effort to enlighten the public. There are scores of *batel din* across the country giving approval to hundreds of products, but not always stipulating that their seals be included on the packaging. Instead, the shopper in the Israeli supermarket is confronted with a plethora of *batel din* letterheads stuck over the dairy counter or on one of the pillars. Many of the goods presumably approved by these *batel din* have no sign on the packaging to indicate that they are fit for Pessah consumption. Others have a rubber stamp or gummed sticker proclaiming that the item is

kosher for Pessah, but not stating the certifying authority.
For those of us who read Hebrew and who care about kashrut, the whole situation is frustrating and time-consuming. Just reading all that rabbinical literature takes ages and one has to keep back-checking.
But for tourists who come to Israel for the festival, a visit to the supermarket is a nightmare. It is not uncommon these days to hear dismayed American and British accents querying ingredients in products.
It is not so bad when the ingredients are printed in English as

well as in Hebrew, but that doesn't always happen. Moreover, not every company producing mayonnaise, for instance, stipulates what kind of oil has been used in the preparation. If it's soybean oil, Ashkenazim have to cross mayonnaise off the shopping list. Likewise, most margarines in Israel have soybean content, as do several sandwich spreads.
To non-observant Jews, this is no big deal; but for those who are observant and whose knowledge of Halacha and/or Hebrew is inadequate, the status quo regarding kashrut is horrific.

The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff.

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The Seder. Aquatint at the Wolfson Museum, Hechal Shlomo, in Jerusalem.

Favourite fress

Jeanne Weisgal shares some Passover recipes

The next day, stuff the turkey with cold stuffing (see note) and wrap turkey well with heavy-duty foil, covering the wing tips, leg ends and any other protruding parts with extra foil, so as not to puncture the outer foil. Roast according to the following chart in oven preheated to 233°C. (450°F.).

Weight of turkey after cleaning, unstuffed	Cooking time
2 1/2 to 4 1/2 kilos	2 1/2 to 3 hours
4 1/2 to 6 kilos	3 to 3 1/2 hours
6 to 7 1/2 kilos	3 1/2 to 4 hours
7 1/2 to 9 1/2 kilos	4 to 4 1/2 hours
9 1/2 to 11 1/2 kilos	4 1/2 to 5 hours

Half-an-hour before the turkey is done, fold back the foil and the turkey will brown. Remove from the oven, re-cover with the foil, and let the turkey sit for 15 minutes before slicing.
Decide on your serving time and count backwards to determine the time to preheat the oven (allow 15 minutes). Don't forget the extra 15 minutes sitting time before slicing. Re-covering the turkey with foil after removing it from the oven

keeps it warm and allows the juices to be absorbed. Save the carcass for soup.
Note: Prepare the stuffing the day before and refrigerate. Bacteria can grow in warm stuffing. After stuffing turkey in the morning refrigerate until you preheat the oven.
Matza Stuffing
Enough for a 10-kilo turkey
300 gr. green peppers, seeded, diced
400 gr. onions, diced
200 gr. celery, with leaves, diced
5 tbs. chicken fat, rendered
200 gr. fresh mushrooms, sliced
20 matzas
5 eggs
1 cup cold chicken broth
1 tbs. each: poultry seasoning, salt
1 tsp. fresh white pepper
1/2 tsp. ground ginger
2 tbs. parsley leaves, minced
In a large frypan or Dutch oven, sauté peppers, onions and celery in the chicken fat, until well wilted. Add mushrooms and sauté an additional five minutes. Remove from the heat.
Under lukewarm running water, rinse the matzas on both sides. Drain off excess moisture. In a large mixing bowl, break matzas into bite-size. Add eggs and chicken broth and toss well to combine. Add the vegetable sauté along with the

Halachic headaches

By Greer Fay Cashman

When there are advertisements in the newspapers here, they are misleading. One supermarket chain under the heading of "Special Reductions for Passover" included whisky in the list of holiday gift suggestions. There is no way that whisky can be kosher for Pessah. Imagine the embarrassment of someone invited to an observant home for seder, when the host and hostess back off in their reluctance to accept so inappropriate a gift bought out of sheer ignorance.
Perhaps Rabbi Mordechai Eliahu and Avraham Shapiro, how installed as the new chief rabbis of Israel, will as their first joint act of office make up for the omissions of their predecessors by clarifying, through the media, who can eat what on Pessah.
The writer is a member of The Jerusalem Post editorial staff.

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THE ARTS



It has been a busy time for new art exhibitions. During one week this month Art Editor Meir Ronnen wrote up 13 exhibitions, with five more awaiting a visit, including a show of 18th century Haggadol at the Israel Museum. The picture above, "The Pompidou Centre" (oil) is from an exhibition of works by Eduard Levin, who came here five years ago from the Soviet Union. He is one of a number of artists showing at the Jerusalem Artists House.

Gimpel the Tzaddik

GIMPEL, the hero of Isaac Bashevis Singer's classic Yiddish tale, is a fool because he believes. He believes whatever the scoffers of Frampol tell him: that the dead have risen, that Elka the town whore is a virgin fit to be his bride. He is also a saint, a tzaddik, because his infinite capacity for belief in spite of degradation and in the teeth of malice is faith at its purest, and his myriad humiliations are those of the man of faith in a mean and dirty world.
Singer's comic-philosophical fable is the basis of a new musical play *Gimpel the Fool*, presented by an enlarged and spirited Khan company at the Gerald Behar Centre. The adaptation by Jean Bernard Morelly (who also directed) and Yoav Lorch gets its extravagance and energy from Morelly's decision to stage it in the frame of an operetta performed by a threadbare Yiddish touring company, the Grodno Superstars. This is a liberating idea because, for Morelly, Yiddish operetta means a brazen mixture of styles, a healthy vulgarity, a frank appeal to laughter and tears — in other words a truly theatrical theatre, gay, professional and supremely unintellectual.

Whether this is in fact true of Goldfaden and company is irrelevant. Neither Morelly nor most of his audience could ever have seen a Yiddish operetta. What does matter is the competence of such a frame and such a mixture of styles to make Gimpel, Elka and the knaves of Frampol come to life on the stage in a way that does not betray the irony and compassion of Singer's words but gives us a show, an interpretation rather than a piece of conventional paraphrasing. In this the production is a success, though

lovers of Singer may well be upset by the inevitable sacrifice of subtlety when their mental picture created by his words is replaced by the broad confrontations and simpler language of the stage.
Yet Morelly's production manages to use vulgarity without being vulgar, to harness the kitschiness of kitsch without being cheap, and to simulate a naive style in a witty and entertaining way. The operetta frame means that the story can be interrupted at will by songs, dances, recitations, exotic transformation scenes and changes of language. It signals to us: don't take this seriously, it's just entertainment, a B picture, a mish-mash.
But this is a cunningly false signal. Gimpel's fate is deeply moving. His innocence, his disappointment, his temptation and his suffering are facets of a traditional morality plot. But since we don't have the traditional morality at our beck and call, since heaven and hell are for us words rather than poles that guide our lives, the theatre has to conjure them up out of tin and fake smoke. The operetta mish-mash makes it possible for the delights of paradise and the pains of hell to be shown to us both absurdly and seriously.

THIS IS, then, a sophisticated play masquerading as a naive one. The only really weak aspects of the production are its music and lyrics, which cannot match the verve of the parody framework. The tunes by Rafi Kadishon twinkle along well enough; but in this context you need more expressive, ironic music that says something apart from accompanying a bunch of words.

ZVI JAGENHOF

Outbacks at Israel Museum

Jerusalem Post Art Editor
Treasury support for the Israel Museum has been halved as inflation has expanded the Museum's budget. Treasury aid, about 40 per cent of the budget in 1974-5, has declined this year to 20 per cent.

Despite the fact that the Museum has trimmed staff and maintenance and cut acquisition of equipment to almost nothing, the Museum's Director, Dr. Martin Wexler, has begun "to ring alarm bells." For

some time now the Museum has been able to mount new shows only with the direct contribution of donors to each particular exhibition. But without more government aid the continued operation of the Museum becomes a question mark.

A more heartening statistic: no fewer than 63 per cent of Israelis have visited the Israel Museum at least once. This is probably an international record. It might well be referred to the Guinness Book of Records.

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At the theatre

An occasional column to give an idea of what is being presented on the stage here. The list is not complete, and no details are given of the number of performances.

All programmes are in Hebrew unless otherwise stated.

Jerusalem
BLOW THEM UP — A Khan Theatre production. (Khan.)

LITERARY EVENING — Sephardi literature and poetry. (Israel Museum.)
GIMPEL TAM — Khan Theatre production. Musical comedy based on the story by I. Bashevis Singer. (Gerald Behar Centre.)

THE LONELY WOMAN — Music and Theatre. With Robin Wagner-Caputo, soprano. Works by Gerhard Schubert, Salomon, Poulenc. (Israel Museum.)

MOVEMENT THEATRE — Improvisations with audience participation. (Parqad.)

WOMEN AND HARD TIMES — Songs and excerpts from Brecht's plays. With Yehuda Nativ. (Parqad.)

YORDIM AL HASHAVUA — Political and social satire on topical issues written by B. Michael and Ephraim Nidon. (Jerusalem Theatre.)

Tel Aviv area
ACTORS VS. AUDIENCE — By Peter Hinkley. Directed by Tam Teicher. (Hama.)

AMADIM — By Peter Shacter. (Cameri Theatre production. (Cameri.)

THE BROTHERS KARAMAZOV — By Dostoyevsky. Habimah production with Shimon Horowitz, Alex Peleg, Israel Hoderman, Shimon Cohen. (Habimah, Small Hall.)

CHILDREN OF THE CITY — By B. H. Hirsch. Musical about the Yiddish community. (Habimah.)

ENCHANTED NIGHT — By Marzouk. Directed by Haim Hoffer. A Khan Theatre production. (Habimah.)

THE FALL — By Albert Camus. Translated and adapted by and starring Nika Nital. (Habimah.)

A FLEA IN HER EAR — Habimah production of Georges Feydeau's farce. (Habimah, Large Hall.)

GOOD — By P. Taylor. Cameri production directed by Haim Hoffer. (Cameri.)

GREAT AND SMALL — Cameri production directed by Haim Hoffer. (Cameri.)

GROS CALIN — Emile Ajar's play translated, adapted by and starring Nika Nital. (Habimah.)

THE IVAR CONNECTION — By Jonathan Glesin. Directed by Itzik Weingarten. (Beit Lesan.)

IT'S REVOLVING — By Joseph Mundy. (Habimah, tonight at 10.)

A JEWISH SOUL — By Yehoshua Sobol. Habima Theatre production. (Habimah, Small Hall.)

THE LESSON — By Ionesco. Directed by Tami Lederer. (Habimah.)

THE MEGILLA — Yiddish Musical by Yitzik Manger. Hebrew by Haim Hoffer. Produced by the Yuvai Theatre. (Habimah.)

THE PACKERS — A light comedy by Haim Levin. A Cameri Theatre production. (Cameri.)

TMU-NA — Movement Theatre Group, directed by Nava Zuckerman. (Tzavta.)

Halfa
THE ASSISTANT — Halfa Theatre production of Bernard Malamud's story. (Halfa Municipal Theatre.)

Other towns
BED KITCHEN, BED KITCHEN — Comedy for one actress with Dina Doronin. Written by Dario Fo and Franca Rame. (Al Shoval and Mishmar David.)

A JEWISH SOUL — (Metsuba.)

SIZWE BANZI IS DEAD — A Khan Theatre production by Aihol Fugard. Directed by Vladimir Aljodan, with Shabtai Kenory and Avraham Mor Chaim. (Rehovot.)

A child's book about the Holocaust

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promise of a new spring



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MEDICINE was cheap in the old days when doctors could do little to cure disease or prolong life. Now they can do wonders — to the point (in the U.S.) of replacing a diseased heart with a manufactured substitute. But the cost is tremendous.

There are already an awful lot of people on this globe. Technology has improved nutrition and hygiene so that the human race lives longer. Is this the time to protract the existence of the individual still further in an overcrowded universe?

Protract, that is, by artificial means. If a person's days are numbered, if he has lived his three-score years and 10, and his strength has left him, he should be allowed to depart this earth with dignity. Don't surround him with life-support mechanisms, to eke out another spell of perious survival.

That sounds a reasonable proposition; but not all agree with it. A number of moral issues are at stake. First of all, what is the suggested solution — to kill a person who is still alive, or just to let him die?

There is a difference between the two acts, a difference which has been exercising judicial minds for many years. Dr. Alfred Witkon, a former chief justice, calls the alternatives commission and omission. To kill a human being (e.g., by administering a death-dealing injection) is a terrible responsibility, he says.

"We happen to be commemorating this year the 50th anniversary of Hitler's accession to power. The Fascists believed in selective killing for eugenic reasons, to improve the race. This recollection serves to remind us how the subject is full of pitfalls. We don't want the state to lay down who fulfills the criteria of positive living and who does not."

"The Eskimos used to put old people out in the cold to die. Such Spartan methods are not for us," he stresses.

The distinction to be made is between the interests of society and the interests of the individual. Governments are seeking to save money in medical budgets. That is not a reason for terminating a human life. The test should be one and one only: whether it is in the patient's own personal interest to be relieved of the burden of living.

The link with economics is indirect. It so happens that ultra-modern techniques for keeping individuals alive a little longer often add nothing to their well-being. If euthanasia was allowed, it would be an act of mercy, and incidentally (but only incidentally) would release equipment, bed-space, personnel, and funds for giving life to those who really need it.

So — what about refraining from the use of these elaborate life-saving devices, if there is no purpose in it? A legal luminary in the U.S., G.P. Fletcher, alleges that turning off a respirator and thus "permitting" a moribund person to die cannot be described as an act of killing. Another authority, I.M. Kennedy in Britain, dismisses Fletcher's argument as logic-chopping. In his view, turning off the respirator is not less an act of commission than cutting the high wire on which the tight-rope walker is balancing, in the knowledge that he will be precipitated to certain death.

The distinction between the two seems over-while. The real question to be doing with his patient and where his duty lies. Rabbi Menachem Porush, MK (Agudat Yisrael) is unequivocal about that.



The right to life

The question of mercy-killing and Jewish law is considered by 'The Post's' David Krivine, who speaks with three leading public figures. Krivine also indirectly discusses the economic implications of preserving life 'whatever the cost.'

"Our duty is to prolong life at all costs — any other alternative should not even be put on the agenda for discussion," he declares.

"The *Shulhan Aruh* states that a patient on his death-bed is considered a living person in every respect. Whoever closes his eyes," Porush emphasizes these words, "whoever closes the patient's eyes at the onset of death is regarded as shedding blood."

But what if the sick man has no chance of returning to normal health? The bearded politician shakes his head. "We are allowed to desecrate the Sabbath in order to save an individual's life. It is called *pikuah nefesh*. Suppose there is *safek pikuah nefesh* — a possibility but not a certainty of saving the person's life. It is still legitimate to desecrate the Sabbath."

"So long as the human soul remains within the body, it is impossible to know what strength it possesses. The power of the soul cannot be measured or delimited," he says. "I'll give you an example."

"Last Hanukka my father took ill with pneumonia and was inanimate for 36 hours. Suddenly he returned to consciousness, turned to my sister who was sitting by his bedside and said: 'Today is the 30th day since your husband died.' It was actually 31 days; he had missed one day because he had been in limbo. "He is alive and with us to this moment." Taking into account that Menachem Porush has five great-grandchildren, it can be imagined what a venerable age his father has reached.

Witkon believes that life should be preserved as a matter of principle.



Rabbi Porush, Agudat Israel Knesset Member



Alfred Witkon, a former chief justice



Felix Landau, an ex-president of the Jerusalem District Court

are entitled to forbid autopsies, and I think that here we have made a mistake," he says, "because the denial of autopsies creates a genuine and serious obstacle to the progress of medical research."

"But if a family refuses to sacrifice the life of a near and dear one, their wish must be respected. Otherwise we would be merciful to the creature who is dying — but cruel to the family who are living."

Landau holds that legislation should be introduced permitting euthanasia on two conditions: that it is justified for humanitarian reasons, and that the patient himself agrees or, if the patient is in a coma, his family agree.

Witkon takes a more cautious stand. Legislation on this subject would be controversial. He reminds us of the warning given by Professor G.M. Williams, a great authority on the subject, that in his country (England) the Catholics would be against it. Witkon seems to imply that the best subjects for law-making are those on which there is a wide measure of consensus.

"Not all the problems of life can be solved by legislation," he smiles — but adds a crucial rider: "I wouldn't sentence a doctor who had ended the life of a human vegetable."

It seems best, in his view, to refrain from spelling out such imponderable and sensitive issues in the legal code. The decision can safely be left to the discretion of the responsible parties involved.

Porush remains uncompromising in his views. On the humanistic side: "It is imperative to ease pain. Jewish law forbids causing distress to animals — how much more does that apply to human beings. But God gave life, we on earth cannot take it away."

On the economic side: "Life must be preserved and extended, whatever the cost. Medical budgets are swelling, but so are the budgets for other social services. A disabled person is given money for a car nowadays, yet money is not available for keeping persons alive — is that possible?"

"Please understand me, I favour making life easier for the disabled, just as I support subsidizing housing for those in need. But we must get our priorities right. Preserving life comes first, making life comfortable comes second."

The costs of social medicine will rise further in the future. As the techniques of limb transplants improve, there will be an outcry for universalizing this treatment. If babies of one kilogram can be kept alive, what about babies of 500 grams? And so on. An industry of life-preservation will arise. Where to draw the line?

A utility test will have to be considered, if not now, then in the future when the problem becomes more acute. Every family is witness to the process of postponing death for the old and sick in their midst, even where death is inevitable. It is difficult to wish for the demise of a close relative, but it is equally hard to welcome the life-preserving process when it amounts, as so often, to prolonging the agony.

Should we not overcome our reluctance to make decisions in the field of life and death? Is the time not approaching where a process of rationalization must be introduced into this irrational area of medical practice? The question has no proper answer yet.

(A previous article by David Krivine on medicine in Israel was published two weeks ago.)

MUSIC

IT IS COMMON knowledge that many professions demand sacrifices of their members in Israel. One of the most demanding professions is music. To persevere as a musician in Israel requires a special attachment to the country, its people, and its needs. A particular attitude and perseverance are required of an Israeli musician who chooses to take part in more primitive conditions, and with far less financial reward, than abroad. Luckily, there are still such musicians in Israel.

The leading spirits of the Jerusalem Opera Society — Madelyn Coppock-Roden and her husband Jacob Roden — launched an operative pilot-project two years ago, without help from foreign experts, or from local sources, and without committees and symposia.

In close cooperation with the Jerusalem Municipality's Youth, Sports and Social Activities Department, opera was brought to schools, and a start was made in educating new and young audiences in understanding and love of this medium.

Smetana's *The Bartered Bride* was chosen for its folkloric element, its simple plot and lively action. However, the main reason for the choice was the opportunity the production gives for participation by children. Dancing, playing animals and clowns, acting, preparation of decorations and costumes, and all the other complex

facets of opera, provided unlimited possibilities for the children. Four elementary schools were selected to take part, and two introductory stages were followed by a regular performance.

All in all, some 1,200 children between the ages of 9 and 12 were involved. The first stage comprised in-class meetings, with no more than 40 children together with their teachers. The two leading singers — Robin Weisel-Capsouto and Daniel Ziff — used games to introduce the subject, and some acting and singing. They both have extensive personalities and excellent pedagogic qualities.

Finally, this month all this painstaking work bore fruit. After a fortnight's rehearsals with over 200 young "actors," four performances were staged at the International Cultural Centre for Youth, in the German Colony, which placed its facilities at the disposal of the project. So that as many children as possible should take part, different groups took turns at each performance.

It was a tremendous success. MANY PEOPLE and institutions combined to make this project

Triumphant note

MUSIC & MUSICIANS / Yohanan Boehm

The principal contributors included the Culture Division of the Ministry of Education and Culture; the Municipality's Social Activities Division provided logistics and made contact with the schools.

The Jerusalem Foundation channelled contributions from abroad. The most considerable were from the Ernst von Siemens Foundation, Munich; Mrs. Kitty Falk, a former resident of Jerusalem now living in New York; Dr. Reuben Hecht, Haifa; and Mrs. Mira Spector, New York. ATA granted a most generous reduction on materials for the costumes, and this helped balance the meagre budget. Bank Leumi made a modest contribution.

But what most contributed to the project's realization was the untiring effort of the many volunteers inspired by Madelyn Coppock-Roden's enthusiasm and energy. An opera requires an auxiliary group of workers behind the footlights which hugely outnumbers the actors. It is this which makes opera so expensive. Driven by her passionate love for her medium, Madelyn Coppock-Roden succeeded in marshalling sufficient helpers. This was more



Some of the cast in The Jerusalem Opera Society's "The Bartered Bride."

than just a children's performance — the standards were highly professional. The assembled talent proved there are enough competent singers in Israel to justify the attempt to build up a small opera company. The performance — ably conducted by Eli Jaffe, and with an excellent piano accompaniment by a new Russian immigrant, Natasha Kossov — was a remarkable event in the history of opera in Israel.

THE QUESTION now is how to maintain the momentum. This pilot

project has undoubtedly established its educational and musical value, and must be followed up, and if possible expanded.

The development of the Jerusalem Opera Society could provide a modest livelihood for professional singers and actors here, and slowly educate a new generation of opera-goers following the closing of the trouble-torn Israel National Opera last year. The Jerusalem Opera Society should be given the chance to succeed where others have failed.

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ISRAEL is not over-endowed with natural resources, so must exploit what she has to the fullest. Nowhere is this necessity more visible than in the agricultural sector. Milouot is a company founded in 1960 jointly by 28 kibbutzim in the Haifa Bay and Western Galilee area.

Its purpose initially was to supply common services. One subsidiary, Milouot, has a poultry slaughterhouse; another, Milouot, runs a cotton gin. Today the group does much more. In 1970 they created Milouda, to handle research and development. In the same year they founded Milound, a computer and data-processing centre.

This reflects the application of brain-power to secure maximal utilization of whatever products kibbutz farmers extract from the soil or breed in their stables. Poultry and turkey carcasses now move from the Milouot abattoir to the Milouot company, which has a 10,000 ton capacity for canned, packaged and frozen meat products.

Results can be seen on labels in foreign markets: Sainsbury's Chicken and Sweetcorn in Sauce (in Britain), St Michael's Cured Turkey in Jelly (Marks & Spencer), Chicken in Mushroom Sauce, Chicken Breast in Jelly, Turkey Breast Cutlets — all made in Milouot.

Israel is a major producer of avocados, even by international standards. Milouot owns what is probably the biggest avocado packing-station in the world, with a roofed area of six dunams (1% acres) capable of handling 25,000 tons in a single shift.

Gavriel Peled, secretary-general of Milouot, says there is a big market to be developed. Mexicans eat 4 kg. of avocados a year, Israelis 2-3 kg. — Europeans only 0.5 kg. The price of the fresh product is good, \$1,000 a ton.

The Milouot group of kibbutz enterprises in the north is big business, with annual exports of \$50 million. "We're constantly on the lookout for new industrial uses of our farm products," secretary-general Gavriel Peled tells The Jerusalem Post's David Krivine.

The best of two worlds

Most of the crop (85 per cent) is exportable.

Grade B fruit is utilized to make avocado dip and grade 3 fruit from all over the country and shall produce 100 tons of oil a year, mostly for export," says Peled.

Customers include a French firm manufacturing a medicament against skin disease because "it's the only known remedy for scleroderma," he declares.

Another daughter company, Milos, was created in 1966 to process fruit and vegetables. It makes citrus concentrates, canned grapefruit segments, etc. That is in the winter — but what about the summer? An answer was conjured up: industrial tomatoes, of which Western Galilee is now the country's biggest cultivator.

Milos manufactures it into ketchup, peeled tomatoes in cans, pizza sauce, tomatoes with vegetables, tomato juice with vitamins, and what you will.

MOST ASTONISHING of all is what those kibbutzniks do with their cotton. The cotton-gin, built in 1971, processes 21,000 tons a year, the end-product being, naturally, to make cloth; but by-products are legion. The gin removes the staple cotton, leaving "linters," a short cellulose fibre, which has all sorts of



Gavriel Peled

industrial applications.

Cotton-seed yields oil, for salads and margarine. Once this oil is extracted, a "cake" remains which contains protein and constitutes a good supplement for animal fodder.

Or it can be ground into meal — and that is not all: Milouot has developed the meal into a flour they call Milouot. This is a cotton-seed protein concentrate, usable as an additive to baked foods consumed by human beings.

Peled rates the possibilities as "tremendous." A brochure put out by Milouot gives recipes for bread, rolls and cookies, which prescribe 10 per cent Milouot in replace-

ment of wheat-flour. This raises the protein level of the item by 50 per cent. The stuff can also be used as an extender for other foods.

"Cocoa costs \$1,500 a ton," he points out. "It is possible to produce a cheaper variety, made up of 60 per cent cocoa and 40 per cent Milouot — which turns out to be cheaper, has the same cocoa flavour and contains protein to boot." Moreover: "Cheap hamburgers can be made with less meat but not less protein than before."

Mexico's former finance minister, on a visit here, was stupefied by what he saw. "We import soy for millions of dollars," he exclaimed, "and throw good cotton waste away." A joint venture has been started in that country, by three partners: Nafinsa (the state investment bank), the local cotton growers, and Milouot. The Israeli-developed cotton flour will be manufactured in Mexico, and used for baking the tortilla or Mexican bread.

IS THERE ANYTHING else to be prized out of Israel's cotton? Most certainly: lint can be separated from the hulls of the seed to make a sweetener called xyliol. (It is still being tested by the American Food and Drug Administration.)

So the work goes on. Milouot's subsidiaries supply each other. Thus

Miloumor, which processes 30,000 tons of cotton-seed, sells cotton-seed cake to Miloubar, which uses it in the manufacture of livestock feed. Milouot, the chicken slaughterhouse, despatches meat flour and ground feathers to the same destination.

The Milouot group is big business, its exports total \$50m. It includes an older undertaking, Mishkei Hamifratz, which does central buying and selling for the member settlements.

This venture operates almost like a bank. All the settlements have accounts there. Sums deposited with Mishkei Hamifratz provide a source of credit for the settlements. If a kibbutz is in surplus, it gets interest at current market rates. If it is in overdraft it pays interest. Cash transfers are made by internal money orders, cheques are not needed.

An assembly of settlements (read: assembly of shareholders) is held every month. Milouot has a board of 15, an executive of five. Chairman is Asher Friedman, Peled comes from Kibbutz Regba. He was formerly agricultural attaché in Bonn. He will remain secretary-general of Milouot for another couple of years. And after that? He grins. "Back to the kibbutz, I suppose."

THE MARKET FOR farm produce is more limited than for industrial commodities, people can only eat so much. Indeed, as productivity improves through mechanization and other scientific advances, the labour force in Israel's agriculture is shrinking.

It is plain, after a visit to Milouot, what the cure is: industrialization of agriculture. If you can't beat them, join them. Crops are not only food-stuffs, they can also be a raw material. Hence Milouot's perpetual search for new ideas.

Head of giant firm worried

By MACABEE DEAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

YOKNEAM. — "Last year was rough, and this year promises to be worse, with the first signs of unemployment visible," Yeshayahu Gavish, director-general of Koor Industries, said here last week. He was speaking during a press tour of Soltam, one of the 100 industrial firms controlled by the Histadrut labour federation-affiliated Koor, and one of three which produce military equipment.

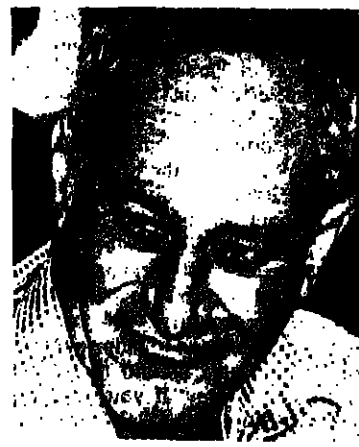
Yakov Lior, head of Soltam, showed the prototype of a new type of self-propelled 155mm. cannon, which he describes as "probably the fastest type of its kind in the world in moving from one firing emplacement to another. Speed is vital in this age with sophisticated electronic spotting devices used by the enemy." He said the gun could develop a speed of 18 kilometres, and the firm hoped to receive an order soon from a country whose name he refused to disclose.

Gavish pointed out that the country's economic situation was so serious that talks had been held days earlier with the Manufacturers Association and with the Kibbutz Industries. (Similar talks had been held a few years ago.) "We want to formulate a joint approach to the authorities to persuade them to be more liberal in helping us keep and increase our export markets. At the same time we want them to clamp down on those imports which are so heavily subsidized, that the governments concerned are in fact exporting their unemployment."

Gavish said that industrial exports dropped by 3-3.5 per cent in January and February. On the other hand, industrial imports increased by 4.5 per cent. At Makhteshim, in Beersheba, Koor had recently fired 250 out of 1,450 workers due to a drop in exports.

He saw this as an advance warning of firings in other plants, not necessarily at Koor, unless the government provided help, and unless the citizens who are so keen on buying foreign products decided to buy Israel-made products."

Gavish predicted that unless this happened the present trend among



Yeshayahu Gavish

many plants to go over to a five-day work week, and to convince workers to take much longer vacations would continue. All this would be a gambit to prevent firings — "until the plants can no longer hold out, and massive unemployment sets in."

He added that Koor was basing its calculations on an inflation of 115 per cent this year (compared to 130 in 1982).

Koor as a whole, he said, would probably continue to show a profit in 1982, although some companies like Alliance have shown dismal results. He expressed the hope that before-tax profits on turnover would be about 50 per cent for 1982, the same profit target which Koor had set for 1981.

It will be some time before all the company reports for 1982 are in. (In 1981, the before-tax profit was 4.5 per cent of turnover.)

Joe Levy, head of operations control at Koor, noted that despite gloomy prospects, the company was going ahead with plans to invest some \$162 million in expansion and in putting up five new plants (compared to \$132m. actually expended in 1982).

Total sales in 1983 would be about \$1,825m. (compared to \$1,650m. in 1982), and exports should be \$520m. (\$471m. in 1982).

The number of employees (despite firings) would grow from 32,100 at the end of 1982 to 32,900 at the end of 1983, with a good proportion of this increase being in the five new plants.

Gavish said these plants would rise in Hazor Hagalili (metal works, in cooperation with Kibbutz Kfar Hanassi), in Jerusalem, to make crystals (the plant would be run by Tadiran), in Kiryat Malachi (printed circuits, also with Tadiran), in Mitzpe Ramon (paper for computers), and "somewhere in the Negev, a plant for sophisticated items."

Of the \$162m. to be invested this year, 47 per cent would be in the field of electricity and electronics (46 per cent of \$132m. last year), 19 per cent in chemistry (23 per cent last year), 16 per cent in non-ferrous metals (17 per cent), 12 per cent in metal works (8 per cent) and 6 per cent in processed foods (the same as last year).

"While Koor provided 10.7 per cent of the country's entire industrial exports in 1979, the figure had grown to 13.5 per cent in 1982," Gavish said. He had no figures for the current year, but did note that 30 per cent of Koor's output in 1983, as in previous years, would be exported.

As for Koor's share in industrial investments, its percentage, as a total of all industrial investments in Israel, had grown from 12 per cent in 1979 to 18 per cent in 1982. He had no figures for 1983, since this also depended on what other plants would invest.

Lior, who came to Soltam five years ago from a similar job in the Military Industries, noted that "competition in the arms business is cut-throat." Soltam had to fight not only against foreign companies which turned out excellent products, he said, but also against a trend in some countries to set up "national" industries in the security field. And these countries did not care if their plants were competitive or not, he added.

"Nevertheless, we have two excellent selling points. Our weapons — which range from 60mm. to 160mm mortars, to the various 155mm. cannons and shells — have won an excellent name for themselves under the most trying conditions — that is the battlefield."

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Printing award

Producing everything from telephone directories to bibles, The Jerusalem Post press has become well-known enough to win the Best Brand Award of 1983 in Israel's printing industry.

The award was presented at a ceremony at the Tel Aviv Hilton to Yehoshua Halevy, press director.

The Best Brand is determined by an opinion survey supervised by the Haifa Technion's faculty of industrial engineering and the management statistics laboratory. The survey was commissioned by the Kela public relations firm. A random sample of households throughout the country are questioned, and winners are entitled to display a special symbol in their advertising and letterheads.

The Press was founded in 1948, shortly after the bomb attack on The Post plant in Jerusalem. The press does mainly web offset printing. In addition to the bibles and telephone directories, it also prints three daily newspapers (including The Jerusalem Post), 6 weeklies and 11 monthlies.

HOTEL. — Acorn International Hotels Corporation, which operates in Menorca, Mallorca and Ibiza, in collaboration with Iberotel, plans to build a 460-room hotel in El Prat.

Profits of Mizrahi Bank nearly tripled in year

By MACABEE DEAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

TEL AVIV. — The Mizrahi Bank Group almost tripled its net profits in 1982, from \$13.5m at the end of 1981 to \$36.6m. at the end of last year, general manager Aharon Meir said here. He added that the group's consolidated balance sheet had grown during 1982 by one billion dollars, from \$3.35b. to \$4.35b.

Like most other banks with international outlets, Mizrahi publishes its major figures in dollars. In shekels, the balance sheet rose by 21.4 per cent in real figures, to stand at \$552.4b. Net after-tax profits grew in real figures by 153 per cent (483.2 per cent in inflationary figures), to stand at \$1,239 million.

Although Meir indicated that he was quite pleased with the financial and physical growth of the bank, he said that he was more than a bit worried about the national economy.

"Of the economic problems facing us, only one, unemployment, has not got out of hand," Real wages, he thought, should not be raised this year. This would help control two of the huge problems afflicting the country, inflation and the adverse balance of payments, he said.

Asked about the "source of such profits" in 1982, Meir pointed out that a goodly portion had come from the bank's various affiliates ("we are becoming a holding company.") with the New York branch alone contributing \$2.2m. towards the consolidated balance sheet.

Meir also noted that Mizrahi was planning to raise \$20m. on the Euro-market, and that locally it would raise \$15b. by issuing rights to prevent shareholders.

The bank's capital means had increased in 1982 to about \$54b., a real gain of 74 per cent over the previous year. Most of this growth was due to floating two issues during 1982, but \$10m. came from issuing deferred certificates to non-Israelis.

The bank's employees at the end of 1982 numbered 2,152.



Aharon Meir

Asked how Mizrahi had come through the collapse of the Tel Aviv Stock Exchange earlier this year, Meir noted that the bank was not directly involved in investments on the exchange and thus the "collapse" had no effect on it. As for the future of the stock exchange, Meir thought that "the public has learned its lesson and is quite wary about rushing headlong back into buying speculative stocks. If the public did rush back in, another collapse would be inevitable."

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The Lord Mayor of Newcastle, Tom Yellowley (left), shows off his chain of office during a visit to Haifa. Yellowley is leading a group of British investors to Israel. With him is Arye Gurel, mayor of Haifa, which is twinned with Newcastle. (Israel Sun)

Leumi in New York had \$12.77m. profit

TEL AVIV. — The net after-tax profits of Bank Leumi Trust Company of New York, the largest subsidiary of Bank Leumi, increased by 47 per cent in the fiscal year ending December 31, 1982. This profit was \$12.77 million, the bank announced. The bank has 27 outlets.

The balance sheet grew by 29 per cent, to stand at \$28m. Deposits grew by 20 per cent, to stand at \$26.6m., and loans increased by 31.6 per cent, to \$1,142m.

The bank notes that these results were obtained despite the huge drop in interest rates in the U.S., from 20 per cent at one time during the year, to 11 per cent at the end of the year.

It was also reported last week that Bank Leumi UK will shortly have its first office outside London. Leumi, which already has five offices in the Greater London area, is to open a northern representative office in Leeds.

Trade deficit increases by 20 per cent

By AVI TEMKIN

Post Economic Reporter
Israel's \$557 million trade deficit for the first two months of 1983 was almost 20 per cent higher than that of the corresponding period last year.

Figures released last week by the Central Bureau of Statistics show that the increased deficit was caused by a \$50m. rise in the country's imports together with a \$39m. drop in exports.

Imports in the January-February period totalled \$1,307m, compared to \$1,257m. in the same period of 1982 — a 4 per cent increase.

The rise in imports consisted primarily of a 20 per cent increase in the import of consumption goods, especially of private cars. Car imports jumped from \$34m. in January-February 1982 to \$45 million in the first two months of 1983 — a 33 per cent increase. Food product imports increased by 17 per cent.

The import of investment goods also showed a considerable increase, rising from \$94m. in January-February 1982 to \$122m. in the same period this year.

The effects of the rising imports were mitigated, however, by a 17

per cent drop in the cost of oil imports, caused mainly by the sharp drop in oil prices in international markets.

Exports of merchandise declined by 5 per cent over the January-February 1982 period — from \$759m. to \$756.

Industrial exports declined by 3.5 per cent, while diamond exports rose by 9 per cent.

The largest drop in exports was registered by the agricultural sector, whose sales abroad declined by 26 per cent — from \$147m. in January-February 1982 to \$109m. in the same period this year.

Computer gives the orders

By MACABEE DEAN
Jerusalem Post Reporter

HERZLIYA PITUAH. — Cycon Computerized Systems, which was founded in November, 1980, with a staff of five and which has since grown to 40, recently dedicated its new premises in the industrial zone here — and at the same time unveiled the prototype of Cycon I.

According to Micky Berman, who with Razi Rom is joint general manager of the fledgling firm: "Cycon I is the most advanced instrument of its type in the world. All we have to do is describe the object we want to build to the computer — and it will take all the decisions on how the design will actually be created in metal."

Berman explained how the computer will instruct a milling machine how to produce the design. Until today, most industrial computers only functioned in two dimensions, he said. "Our prototype functions in three dimensions. It saves 80 to 90 per cent of the work and time of producing a new mold or die."

The firm, whose name Cycon stands for "cybernetic control," has the unqualified support of Prof. Arlo Lavie, the Chief Scientist in the Ministry of Industry and Trade. Lavie's office advanced 50 per cent, or \$1 million, of the funds needed to get the company "out of the dream stage" into the harsh realities of the business world — especially in finding a niche for itself in exports.

Prof. Lavie, who attended the dedication ceremony, bet a bottle of champagne that Cycon would be exporting goods valued at \$30m. by 1990.

However, both Berman and Rom were a bit more restrained, but they did predict that the first Cycon I would roll off the assembly line in September, 1983. "By March 1984, we hope to produce ten units a month; and by March, 1986, 100 units a month." And by then, Cycon II should also be in production. Cycon I is expected to be bought by small and medium-sized metal-making plants; Cycon II by the larger and giant factories. Berman revealed that the Israel Aviation Industries had already signed a three-year contract, worth \$1.9m., for Cycon I.

The company is owned by Berman and Rom, each of whom holds slightly less than 30 per cent of the equity, and by Ms. Shalva Levin, born in India, and Ms. Irit Katzav, a sabra, each of whom holds slightly less than 15 per cent. The two women are software computer experts. Another half a per cent is held by David Tolob, an expert in computer hardware, with the remaining ten per cent held by a South American, who does not want his name to be revealed.

Berman is a specialist in computers, while Rom, although an engineer by profession, is concentrating on the administrative side of the firm.

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8 p.m.	7 p.m.	6 p.m.	5 p.m. (*)
9 p.m.	8 p.m.	7 p.m.	6 p.m. (*)
Midnight	11 p.m.	10 p.m.	9 p.m. (**)

(*) On these frequencies: 11665 kHz in the 25 metre band, 9616 kHz in the 31 metre band, 7410 kHz in the 40 metre band.

(**) On these frequencies: 15108 kHz in the 19 metre band, 11037 kHz in the 25 metre band, 9616 kHz in the 30 metre band, 8440 kHz in the 31 metre band.

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9616 kHz	19, 21, 25, 30 m bands
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The Passover spirit

RELIGIOUS festivals tend to bring out the best in people, and the closeness of Pesach has apparently had an effect on the volume of "Forsake Me Not" contributions. New donations amounting to \$547,559.24 bring the total so far to \$1,761,209.04. With spring around the corner, many elderly people who were virtually housebound during the winter will be reappearing at clubs and centres for the aged around the country. New projects will be introduced to help them occupy their time — and these projects cost money. If you have not yet contributed to "Forsake Me Not" it would be welcome if you did now to help new projects get off the ground.

Contributions to both "Forsake Me Not" and The Jerusalem Post Toy Fund should be sent to The Jerusalem Post, P.O. B. 81, 91000 Jerusalem, Israel. Please remember to make out individual cheques for each fund and to clearly print or type all names intended for publication.

"FORSAKE ME NOT"
 "Forsake Me Not" donors were: IN \$1000 In honour of Debbie Boyne on her 40th birthday. Her loving children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren in Israel. \$100 Anonymous, Camarillo, Kansas. \$12,700 Anonymous, Tel Aviv. \$12,500 In memory of my dear parents Soma and Moses Behr — Judge (Ret.) Nehemia H. Behr, Ramat Gan. \$12,000 Anonymous, Jerusalem. H.B. Mitchell, Jerusalem. In honour of the 50th birthday of Mrs. Marcha Kilmann — Her relatives in Jerusalem. \$20 Gilad Blake, Salford, West Midlands, England. \$1400 In memory of our parents Rabbani Rukia and Rabbi Mendel Shuck — Their children, Yehonatan, Jerusalem. In loving memory of Aha Kaplan Anonymous, Tel Aviv. In loving memory of Tony and Geoffrey Ellis. In appreciation of Dr. Sussman's cure for colds — Lotte Lichtenstein, Huda. \$25 In honour of the 50th birthday of Max J. Rottensberg — The Seidlin Family, Pleasantville, N.Y. \$18 Louise Hoffman, New York, N.Y. In lov-

ing memory of my beloved father Jacob Hanner, whose Yahrzeit was commemorated on Adar 21 — Betty Hanner, New York, N.Y. We mourn the untimely passing of Mrs. Ida Bunin Stein, the mother of our dear friend Ruth Mauer, who shared so much with so many — Liane and Marcel Teitelbaum, West Hempstead, N.Y. \$500 M.J.N. and M. \$500 Hannah Ben Shlomo, Kibbutz Ganim \$500 The Tuesday Bridge Club Kiron. \$520 Monday Bridge, Tel Aviv. \$520 Anonymous, Tel Aviv. Dr. Hanneh Lev. Ramat Gan, Anonymous, Tel Aviv. \$5 Isidore Greenberg, Brooklyn, N.Y. \$1800 In memory of H. Donin and V. Nistan — B. Gordon, Jerusalem. \$1500 Hana Clement, Tel Aviv. Lili Kaye, Kibbutz Luvit. S. and E. Rosenstein, Netanya. \$18 Anonymous, Jerusalem.

Tora and Flora
 THE FOURTH chapter of the tractate Pesachim states that local custom and usage, even when not in accordance with the generally accepted halacha, is to be respected. What is forbidden in other localities is permitted in those places. Among the various examples quoted is the following. The general rule was to refrain from all work on the 14th of Nisan, because of the need to be wholly preoccupied with preparations for the festival, which begins that night. In Jericho, however, they used to graft (pollinate?) their date palms on that day, and the authorities permitted it.

Jericho is twice referred to in the Bible as "The City of Palms" (Deuteronomy 34.3 and Chronicles I, 28.15), but the association of the city with the palm is stressed even more by the omission of the name, and its appellation merely as "Palm City" (Judges 1.16 and 3.13). The economic livelihood of its inhabitants depended upon the date crop, and since the month of Nisan was the period for its florescence, the exception was made.

There is, however, another interesting aspect to this Mishna. There are male date palms and female ones, and fructification takes place by pollination (though the word used in the Mishna is "grafting"). Pliny mentions this in

his *Natural History*, and it is referred to in the Talmud (Pes. 56a). Rashi, in his commentary on the above mentioned Mishna, also refers to the two sexes of the palm and the need for "cross-breeding" to produce the fruit. Strangely enough, he explains, "a twig of a male tree is grafted on a female tree because the female tree does not produce fruit, but only the male!" R. Obadiah Bertinoro, the author of the standard commentary on the Mishna, repeats his words. The rabbis of the Midrash were not only aware of the sexual nature of the palm, but they even ascribed passion to it. "Said R. Tanhuma; it happened that there was a palm tree in Hamtan that was sterile and produced no fruit. They grafted it, but still it remained sterile. A passing palm grower stated, 'That palm can see as far as Jericho, and it has its eyes on a palm growing there, and has formed a passion for it.' They thereupon brought a graft from it, and grafted it and immediately it produced fruit" (Gen. Rabba 41.1 and Bamidbar Babba 3.1).

SHARON AND THE KAHAN REPORT
 To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — Our government has fully accepted the recommendations of the Kahan Commission and is complying with them to the letter. Mr. Sharon has honourably resigned from the defence portfolio, but nowhere in its recommendations did the commission rule that the former defence minister should be hounded out of political life or that the country should be deprived of his participation and experienced counsel in the governmental forums that deal with matters of security or negotiations with Lebanon.

Mischiefous accusations that the government has complied with the commission's recommendations to the letter but not to the spirit are, an insult to the distinguished members of the commission. Justice Kahan and his colleagues are highly respected, intelligent and articulate men. Their recommendations were all framed in very specific terms. Had they wanted Mr. Sharon excluded from public and political life

WHY THE U.S. AIDS ISRAEL
 To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — Referring to Mr. L.Y. Laufer's article of March 6, may I point out that the aid we are receiving from the U.S. is not founded on sympathy, but on sound commercial considerations. We certainly enjoyed a lot of sympathy in the first 22 years of Israel's existence but U.S. aid was rather meagre. As Mr. Laufer rightly remarks, the tap has been opened wide since. This can hardly be explained by any increased sympathy for brave little Israel.

Since the easiest way to get petrodollars back into Uncle Sam's pocket is to sell arms to newly enriched Arabs, the very existence of an armed and intransigent Israel is good for American business. Compared with the Saudi arms

purchase, the aid to Israel is a drop in the bucket. A "united and peaceful Middle East" is much less likely to be a "bulwark against potential Soviet expansionism" than NATO, and we know how much this outfit is worth. Any Israeli effort to turn back the clock to A.D. Gordon, to recover the dignity of labour and to live at peace with our dear neighbours, may meet with approval from the U.S. liberal establishment, but the Israel electorate is not likely to approve.

And after the Russians have decided to dispose of the now useless Israel — while Uncle Sam voices his humanitarian indignation — there would not be any Israeli electorate left. Haifa. V.N. MALINOV

ANOTHER BRAVE YOUTH ALIYA FIGURE
 To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — Marsha Pomerantz's article, "An enterprising life," about Recha Freier and Youth Aliya, reminded me of a great, wonderful and untiring human being, Hans Beyth, who ran the day-to-day operation of Youth Aliya. It was thanks to him that every kibbutz and moshav adhered to the principles laid down by Henrietta Szold to give to the Youth Aliyah youngsters the education of which the Nazis had deprived them. As one of the very early Youth Aliyah members, I can testify that every one of us looked upon him as a

THREE CHEERS FOR ISRAEL

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — Where are the three cheers for Israel for refusing to whitewash the Shatilla and Sabra tragedies? She had at least three excuses to harbour bitterness against the nations' hypocritical double standards employed in judging her actions in Lebanon. First, her putting an end to PLO terrorism in and from Lebanon was called an "invasion" rather than the reality of preventive medicine against further terrorist butchery in both Israel and Lebanon. Second, her ring of steel around Beirut, insisting that this once great city be no more used as headquarters for international terrorism, was deplored, while Mr. Arafat, hiding behind the skirts of women and children (in fact, refusing to let

civilians leave his hostage city) was patronized as our newest saint. Third, Jews were made to look like the triggermen, while the press was silent on bringing the real murderers — so-called "Christian" Phalangists — to trial. The Israelis could have developed a turtle complex and pulled into shells of indifference regarding the massacre. Instead, they investigate and castigate their own. Israel has proven that democracy and morality are alive and well in the Middle East. She continues to deserve America's fullest support.

REV. FRANK EIKLOR, President, The Shalom Fellowship
 Keene, New Hampshire.

SHARON AND THE KAHAN REPORT
 To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — During the recent El Al fiasco, it was pointed out, and rightly so, that El Al was more than just an airline, it was and is a symbol to the world as a whole, and to the Diaspora Jews specifically. Symbols, and the pride associated with them, are of a value that cannot be reduced to dollars or marks or shekels. Israel Bonds are no less an important symbol than El Al. To increase the minimum bond available from \$250 to \$500 or to as much as \$1,000 would effectively destroy the symbolic value of these bonds. While I am quite content to invest \$500 in a bond from time to time, and while I can convince my children that their \$250 investment is a morally and

financially sound investment, an increase in minimum size would effectively eliminate many potential investors — particularly the young. To save this important symbol, there is one very obvious answer. Keep the lower value bonds, \$250 if possible, \$500 otherwise, and reduce the interest rate paid on these bonds by enough to cover most of the added costs mandated by new U.S. laws. I believe, perhaps naively, that a one or two per cent decrease in interest rates on these smaller denomination bonds would have only a minor impact on sales, yet would keep intact a rather important symbol to the Diaspora Jews.

ALAN I. SCHNEIDER
 Farmington Hills, Michigan.

A PERVERSION OF ETHICS
 To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — The report of the Israel commission on the Beirut massacre elicited great praise in the media for its finely honed sensitivity to moral concerns. What is tragic is that close scrutiny of the decision manifests a base anti-humanistic perspective of life. What was the actual crime committed by Sharon? It was not a criminal act of which he could even be convicted in a trial of law. It was, rather, a metaphysical issue, a lapse of responsibility. Israeli leaders are held accountable for not realizing that Arab Christians are prone to massacre Arab Moslems. Thus, the crime was faith in humanity. Sharon had no right to assume that his military counterparts in the Christian militia would behave like soldiers of honour or even like normal human beings. By not subscribing to this brutal definition of Christian Arab soldiers, Sharon is judged by his peers and the world as indirectly accountable for the massacre. What a perversion of ethics! Faith in the moral fibre of another ethnic group, even an enemy, is judged as guilt of a lapse of responsibility. The ramifications of this so-called moral ethic tend to corrode any

GUNTHER L. LESS
 Roslyn, New York.

PLEA FOR RUMANIAN REFUSENIK

To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — I am a jurist who emigrated from Rumania in 1981. There, I was a member of the Paul Goma Dissenter Group, the Free Trade Union of the Rumanian Workmen, and the clandestine Human Rights Defence Committee. After having spent three years in prison, the Rumanian authorities gave me a passport for stateless persons and I finally arrived in Israel.

As usual in such cases, the authorities kept my son, Mircea Damboviceanu, as a hostage in Rumania. Because he is the son of an enemy of the people and because of his Jewish blood my son has no future in Rumania. His demand to emigrate was refused without justification.

As a result of some media interviews about Rumanian violations of human rights, the Rumanian authorities agreed to allow my son to emigrate in exchange for my silence. But although I stopped giving interviews about Rumania, the authorities there still refuse to give my son a passport, and I myself have received threatening letters. I have now resumed my public campaign to obtain permission for my son to emigrate. If the Rumanians persist in their refusal, I intend to start a hunger strike on May 1 opposite the Rumanian Embassy in Tel Aviv.

ROBERT EVEN DAMBOVICEANU
 Tel Aviv.

SCAPEGOATS
 To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — As the Jews have been used as scapegoats for 2,000 years, it is particularly reprehensible for them now to seek scapegoats of their own in Israel. After the 1973 War, Dayan and other military officers were abused and their reputations destroyed by the scapegoat-seekers. Now, the process is being repeated with Sharon and others of the IDF.

If any Israelis believe that the gentiles have been favourably impressed by this self-flagellation, they are mistaken, for the gentiles have never been known to admire fools. **EMANUEL TEITELMAN** Brooklyn, N.Y.

PLO EXCESSES
 To the Editor of The Jerusalem Post Sir, — In the words of your editorial of February 21, "there can be no doubt that the Irgun, and its excesses, were phenomena that reflected the despair of the Jewish People [sic] during the period of the Holocaust." Does it not occur to you that history will surely pass a similar extenuating judgment on the excesses of the PLO, which are similarly prompted by the desperation of a whole people? **TIMOTHY KEYTE** Newbury, Berks.

Sir, — The writer of the letter on PLO excesses (March 4) has deliberately forgotten that the "excesses" of the Irgun were committed solely in fighting British army and police personnel. "The PLO" in their despair fought, and murdered civilians (Olympic sportsmen, for example) and innocent children (Ma'alot, for example). Such deeds by the PLO are innumerable. Or his history (and Mr. Timothy Keyte) already conveniently forgotten such incidents? **S. HALLSIDER** Netanya.

Dry Bones



SYMBOLIC VALUE OF ISRAEL BONDS

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